

# For Reference

---

NOT TO BE TAKEN FROM THIS ROOM

# For Reference

---

NOT TO BE TAKEN FROM THIS ROOM

Ex LIBRIS  
UNIVERSITATIS  
ALBERTAENSIS













THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

A HISTORY OF CANADIAN FOOTBALL 1909-1968

by



FRANK COSENTINO

A THESIS

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES  
IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE  
OF MASTER OF ARTS

FACULTY OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

SPRING 1969



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

The undersigned certify that they have read, and recommend to the Faculty of Graduate Studies for acceptance, a thesis entitled A History of Canadian Football 1909-1968, submitted by Frank Cosentino in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts.



## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to trace the growth of Canadian football from 1909-1968. Emphasis was placed on rule changes, the style of play as a result of rule changes and the trend from amateur to professional.

The period of time was further broken down into three distinct stages: 1909-1924, 1925-1945, 1946-1968. In order to ensure a measure of direction, only those leagues declared eligible by the trustees to compete for the Grey Cup were considered. In 1909, those eligible were: the Canadian Intercollegiate Rugby Football Union, the Ontario Rugby Football Union and the Interprovincial Rugby Football Union. In 1921, the Western Canada Rugby Football Union was allowed to enter into the competition. In 1934 and 1955, the Intercollegiate and Ontario unions, respectively, withdrew from the competition for the Grey Cup. In 1966, the Canadian Football League was awarded the trusteeship of the Cup by the C.R.U. with the latter body changing its name to the Canadian Amateur Football Association.

During the period studied, the game of Football evolved from a game akin to English rugby to one closely resembling American football. In 1909, it was governed by the prevalent amateur code, whereas, in 1968, it was dominated by professionalism.





## PREFACE

It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions and spends himself in a worthy cause; who at best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly; so that his place shall never be with the cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>Theodore Roosevelt, as quoted in Crawley Films Ltd. "Commentary".



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author expresses his sincere thanks to his thesis committee members, Dr. R.R. Hett, Professor C. Drake and particularly his Chairman, Dr. M.L. Howell, whose interest, guidance and encouragement was given unselfishly. Thanks are also due to Professor R.G. Glassford for his direction in the initial stages of research.

Appreciation is also extended to the many individuals who took the time to answer letters and consent to interviews with the author.

Thanks are extended also to (Mrs.) Elaine Stambaugh for her typing of this thesis.

The author's sincerest thanks go to his wife, Sheila, for her patience, prodding, proof reading and her understanding.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. FOOTBALL IN CANADA PRIOR TO 1909 . . . . .	1
II. GENERAL FEATURES OF CANADIAN FOOTBALL IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO 1909 . . . . .	11
III. THE GREY CUP . . . . .	16
IV. THE UNIVERSITY GAME 1909-1924 . . . . .	25
A. 1909-1914 . . . . .	25
B. 1915-1919 . . . . .	54
C. 1920-1924 . . . . .	59
V. THE SUPREMACY OF THE CITY LEAGUES 1925-1945 . . . . .	93
D. 1925-1930 . . . . .	93
E. 1931-1938 . . . . .	117
F. 1939-1945 . . . . .	158
VI. POST-WAR PROFESSIONALISM 1946-1968 . . . . .	179
G. 1946-1955 . . . . .	179
H. 1956-1960 . . . . .	232
I. 1961-1968 . . . . .	256
BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	303
APPENDIX A . . . . .	314
Playing Rules of 1909 . . . . .	315
Forward Pass Rule of 1929 . . . . .	324
Forward Pass Rules of 1931 . . . . .	327
APPENDIX B . . . . .	333
Letters pertaining to the presentation of the Grey Cup . . . . .	334
Official Press Release re: Grey Cup . . . . .	351





	vii
CHAPTER	PAGE
APPENDIX C . . . . .	353
C.R.U. Registration Card . . . . .	354
Typical 1949 W.I.F.U. Player's Contract . . . . .	355
1950 I.R.F.U. Player's Contract . . . . .	358
1953 N.F.L. Player's Contract . . . . .	360
1956 I.R.F.U. Player's Contract . . . . .	363
1960 C.F.L. Player's Contract . . . . .	364
1968 C.F.L. Player's Contract . . . . .	367
APPENDIX D . . . . .	371
Illustrations and their sources . . . . .	372
List of Abbreviations used . . . . .	375





## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURE		PAGE
1.	Earl Grey . . . . .	17
2.	Grey Cup . . . . .	17
3.	Frank Shaughnessy . . . . .	87
4.	C.R.U. Championship Cap . . . . .	87
5.	Trophies presented to Frank Shaughnessy by McGill football teams of 1912, 1913 . . . . .	87
6.	Hugo Ross Trophy . . . . .	87
7.	McGill vs. Varsity, 1909. Smirle Lawson, ball carrier . . . . .	88
8.	University of Toronto, Grey Cup champions, 1909 . . . .	88
9.	Varsity vs. Parkdale Canoe Club, First Grey Cup game .	88
10.	First O.R.F.U. Grey Cup winners, Hamilton Alerts, 1912 . . . . .	89
11.	Hamilton Alerts Pennant . . . . .	89
12.	Hamilton Tigers sweater coat, 1913 . . . . .	89
13.	First Western representatives, Edmonton Eskimos, 1921 .	89
14.	Fourteen man football line-up, Edmonton, 1913 . . . .	90
15.	Snap, Scrim supports, Quarterback, Edmonton, 1913 . . .	90
16.	One piece canvas uniform, Edmonton, 1913 . . . . .	91
17.	Two piece uniform, Edmonton, 1913 . . . . .	91
18.	Harry Batstone, 1922 . . . . .	91
19.	Start of a typical extension play, Queen's, 1923 . . .	92
20.	Hamilton Tiger program, 1925 . . . . .	175
21.	Grey Cup program, 1929, outlining forward pass rules .	175
22.	Ted Reeve . . . . .	175



FIGURE	PAGE
23. Brian Timmis . . . . .	175
24. Warren Stevens . . . . .	176
25. Orm Beach . . . . .	176
26. Lionel Conacher . . . . .	176
27. Fritzie Hanson . . . . .	176
28. First Western Grey Cup winners, Winnipeg, 1935 . . . .	177
29. Sarnia line-up, 1936 . . . . .	177
30. Dave Sprague . . . . .	178
31. Specially built face mask, 1938 . . . . .	178
32. Grey Cup champions, 1943, Hamilton Wildcats . . . . .	178
33. Joe Krol . . . . .	296
34. Ted Morris . . . . .	296
35. Royal Copeland . . . . .	296
36. Tony Golab . . . . .	296
37. Frank Filchok . . . . .	297
38. Les Lear . . . . .	297
39. "Mud Bowl", Winnipeg vs. Toronto, 1950 . . . . .	297
40. Normie Kwong . . . . .	297
41. Calgary Stampeders, 1948 Grey Cup champions . . . . .	298
42. Dick Huffman, Frank Filchok, Princess Elizabeth, Philip, Mrs. W. Sprague, Edmonton, October 27, 1951 .	298
43. Rollie Miles . . . . .	299
44. Don Getty . . . . .	299
45. Johnny Bright . . . . .	299
46. Gerry James . . . . .	299
47. Pop Ivy . . . . .	299



FIGURE	PAGE
48. Bud Grant . . . . .	299
49. Leo Lewis, number 29 . . . . .	299
50. Don Clark . . . . .	300
51. George Dixon . . . . .	300
52. Bobby Kuntz . . . . .	300
53. Ronnie Stewart . . . . .	300
54. Kaye Vaughan . . . . .	300
55. Tommy Joe Coffey . . . . .	300
56. Hal Patterson . . . . .	300
57. John Barrow . . . . .	300
58. Wayne Harris . . . . .	300
59. Sam Etcheverry . . . . .	301
60. Bernie Faloney . . . . .	301
61. Tobin Rote . . . . .	301
62. Jackie Parker . . . . .	301
63. Ralph Sazio, Jim Trimble after winning of 1961 Big Four championship . . . . .	301
64. Jack Jacobs . . . . .	301
65. Peter Liske . . . . .	301
66. Russ Jackson . . . . .	301
67. Single Bar face mask . . . . .	302
68. Half "Birdcage" face mask . . . . .	302
69. Helmet with plastic band face protector . . . . .	302
70. "Snubber" nose protector . . . . .	302
71. Specially constructed face mask for Ed Vereb, B.C. Lions . . . . .	302





FIGURE	PAGE
72. "Birdcage" face mask . . . . .	302
73. Comparison of 1924, 1934, 1962 balls . . . . .	302
74. Goose-necked goal-post, introduced 1966 . . . . .	302





## CHAPTER I

### FOOTBALL IN CANADA PRIOR TO 1909

The soccer variety of football was probably introduced into Canada by the first colonists to settle in this land. Because of the "invention" of the game of rugby by William Webb Ellis, in 1823, the latter game did not make its way from England to Canada until after that date. It is generally held that English garrisons stationed in Montreal possibly because of the Civil War in the United States, introduced the game of rugby into Canada. R. Tait McKenzie states in an article<sup>1</sup> that the first game of which there was an account was played in 1865 between the officers of the regiments and a team of civilians, mostly from McGill University.

The McGill students carried the game back to their university and introduced it to the student body. Davidson<sup>2</sup> states that, in 1873, the faculty of Arts defeated the faculty of Science, under English Rugby Rules, by a score of one touchdown to none. By 1874 McGill had developed a hybrid set of rules and in that year

. . . Captain David Rodger, of McGill, challenged Harvard to two games--home and home--to demonstrate the English game as played in Canada. But the faculty of Harvard would not trust their youth in the frozen north--although it was the month of May--they might either lose their scalps or fail in their examinations.<sup>3</sup>

It was finally agreed that McGill would travel to Cambridge to play

---

<sup>1</sup>R. Tait McKenzie, "Rugby Football in Canada". Dominion Illustrated Monthly, Vol. 1 (February, 1892), p. 12.

<sup>2</sup>Stewart Alexander Davidson, "A History of Sports and Games in Eastern Canada Prior to World War I". (Unpublished Doctoral Thesis, Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York, 1951), p. 75.

<sup>3</sup>T.A. Reed, The Blue and The White (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1944), p. 80.



the two games there. The first game was to be played under the rules in use by Harvard. In this game, played on May 14, 1874, using a round ball and Harvard's rules, the McGill team was defeated. The following day, on May 15, the Canadian rules were in effect but McGill had either lost or misplaced its oval ball. As a consequence, the second game, while played under the McGill rules, was played with a round ball. The game ended in a scoreless tie. Admission to each game, played at Jarvis Field, was fifty cents with the proceeds devoted to the visitors from Montreal. The McGill game made a very good impression and the editor of the Harvard Magenta thought it was much better than the "somewhat sleepy game now played by our men".<sup>4</sup>

With Rugby having its Canadian birthplace in the province of Quebec it is not surprising that the first "Union" to be founded in Canada was in that same province. Named the Quebec Rugby Football Union, it was first organized in February, 1882, with H. Abbott as its president.<sup>5</sup> At the founding meeting, the following teams were represented and granted membership: Montreal, Britannia, McGill, Quebec and Bishop's College of Lennoxville.<sup>6</sup> Previous to its organization, the Montreal Challenge Cup represented the title to the champions of the province of Quebec. The first winner of that trophy was in 1873, Montreal being the winner.

Later in that same year a Canadian Rugby Football Union was formed, somewhat optimistically perhaps, since only one other union existed at that time. On October 21, 1882, the Canadian Union came into being with

---

<sup>4</sup>John Allen Krout, Annals of American Sport (New Haven, N.Y. Yale University Press, 1929).

<sup>5</sup>Spalding Athletic Library, Vol. 1, No. 8, Official Football Guide 1911 (Canadian Sports Publishing Company. Montreal), p. 57.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid.





William Hamilton Merritt of Toronto being its first president.<sup>7</sup> Still another union was formed in 1883. The Ontario Rugby Football Union came into existence January 5, 1883. Its first president was the same aforementioned William Hamilton Merritt.<sup>8</sup>

Rugby football was, at this time, in a very confused state because of the varying rules in effect in the different unions.

A major innovation was introduced into the game by the University of Michigan when they played Toronto Varsity in 1879. In this game, Michigan lined up with their forwards in a single line and the ball was snapped out to the backs. Harvard used a somewhat similar tactic in their open formation, lining up with eleven forwards and putting the ball into play by snapping it back with the hand or the foot.<sup>9</sup>

In 1879, however, a fundamental change was made in the rules and this change revolutionized the game. A player, when he was tackled and the ball held, was obliged to place it on the ground immediately. It was, in essence this code of rules which was adopted by the Canadian Union. The major departure from the English game was still to come and, in 1882, influenced by the American "snap back system", the traditional "scrum" of the English game was done away with.

Our system of scrummaging then, consists in a centre man with a man on either side of him. When one side has possession of the ball, it is given to the centre who, putting the ball down in front of him, together with his confreres endeavors to keep the opposing scrum in check and at the same time heel the ball back to the quarter; the object of the other scrum being to prevent this either by kicking the ball through and following it up or by pushing their opponents to their knees.<sup>10</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., p. 7.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., p. 37.

<sup>9</sup> Davidson, Op. Cit., p. 77.

<sup>10</sup> A.C. Kingstone and C.A.S. Boddy, "Characteristics of Canadian Football", Outing, Vol. 27, December 1892, p. 250.





This revision of the rules as to possession was by far the most radical change ever introduced into Canadian football and became the starting point for the almost complete evolution of the game from its original English background. A team could thus retain possession indefinitely and, consequently, much of the spontaneity of the English game was removed.

The new rules were also the downfall of the original Canadian Rugby Union. The differences in the rules of the Quebec and Ontario Unions made playoffs between those two unions increasingly difficult. In the first championship match, in 1883, Montreal of the Quebec Union defeated Toronto of the Ontario Union by a score of 30-0. In 1884 and again in 1885, no championship matches were held. In 1886, the Ontario Union seceded from the Canadian Union because of an objection to the rules. The Canadian Rugby Union ceased to operate until it was re-organized on December 19, 1891, at the Windsor Hotel, Montreal.

A meeting of delegates from the Quebec and Ontario Union was held here today for the purpose of forming a Canadian Union. There were present from the Quebec Rugby Football Union: Edward Black--Montreal Football Club; B.B. Stevenson--Britannia Football Club; H. Yates--McGill Football Club. From the Ontario Union: P.B. Taylor--Ottawa Football Club; W.A. Logie--Hamilton Football Club; A.H. Campbell Jr.--Toronto Football Club.

Mr. Yates moved, seconded by Mr. Logie--that this meeting comprised of three delegates appointed from each of the Ontario and Quebec Unions, proceed to the formation of a Canadian Rugby Union.<sup>11</sup>

A.H. Campbell Jr. was elected president, Edward Black, vice-president and W.A. Logie, secretary-treasurer of the new governing body.

The new code of rules approved by the 1891 meeting was basically that of the Ontario Union. There were 15 men to a side and the game

---

<sup>11</sup>Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the C.R.U., December 19, 1891, p. 5.





consisted of two 45 minute halves. There was a fair catch rule and it was a foul when a player threw or knocked the ball forward. It was also illegal to tackle a player below the knees. Oddly enough, there was no specification as to the size of the ball. This did not come until 1906, when it was stated that a legal football was one that was "11 inches in length, 23 inches in circumference of width and 13 3/4 ounces in weight (Spalding or Wilson make).<sup>12</sup>

Putting aside the English system of awarding games on the basis of goals and tries, the new union instead adopted the point system which had previously been adopted by the O.R.F.U. in 1891

A match shall be decided by a majority of points. A goal kicked from a try shall score 6 points; from a drop kick 5 points; from a flying kick or free kick 4; a try shall score 4, a safety touch 2 and a rouge 1.<sup>13</sup>

The first championship under the auspices of the new union was played at Rosedale Field, Toronto, on Thanksgiving Day 1892, with Osgoode Hall of the Ontario Union defeating the Montreal Football Club of the Quebec Union by 45-5. Even with the headway being made in bringing the two provincial unions together for a championship game under the same rules, the O.R.F.U. and the Q.R.F.U. still played their regular season games under different codes. The C.R.U. passed a resolution:

That it is in the interests of football that the game in Ontario and Quebec be played under the same rules. This union would urge that the best means of bringing about such uniformity is that the provincial unions be asked to amend their respective constitutions so as to provide in each case that the rules of play be those from time to time adopted by the C.R.U., that the delegates present at this meeting be instructed and undertake to do their utmost to bring about the desired change.<sup>14</sup>

---

<sup>12</sup>Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the C.R.U., 1906.

<sup>13</sup>Minutes of the First Meeting of the C.R.U., December 19, 1891.

<sup>14</sup>Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the C.R.U., December 22, 1894.



In 1894 it was decided to count a free kick from a penalty as 2 points instead of 4. It is interesting to note that no substitution was allowed, but, in the event of injury, a substitute could enter the game in the first half but not in the second half unless by agreement of the captains before the match. In 1895, matches were changed to a length of 80 minutes and, for the first time, umpires were no longer required to keep time. A timekeeper was designated for this; his duties were to commence in the 1896 season.

For the first time, the word "amateur" was introduced at the 1896 meeting.

It was moved by Mr. A.H. Campbell and seconded by Mr. A.J. Whitham that the following regulation be added to the regulation and rules of the Union: No player shall be eligible to play in any match under the auspices of the Union who is not an amateur in good standing. Carried.<sup>15</sup>

It was further moved and carried that the definition of "amateur" be the one contained in the constitution of the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada.

An amateur is one who has never competed for money prize or staked bet, or with or against a professional for any prize, or who has never taught, pursued, or assisted in the practice of athletic exercise as a means of obtaining a livelihood or who has never entered any competition under a name other than his own.<sup>16</sup>

The first attempt to ensure a turnover of the ball came at the annual meeting of 1897, when it was decided that "if in three consecutive downs, unless the ball crosses the goal line, a team shall not have advanced the ball 5 yards or taken it back 20 yards, it shall go to the opponents on the spot of the fourth down."<sup>17</sup> In that same year, 1897, another union was formed in Eastern Canada. The Intercollegiate Union (Canadian Intercollegiate Rugby Football Union) was established November 24, 1897, at a special meeting in Kingston. It was scheduled in response

---

<sup>15</sup>Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the C.R.U., December 19, 1896.

<sup>16</sup>Ibid. <sup>17</sup>Minutes of Annual Meeting of the C.R.U., 1897.





to a very generally expressed desire, among college men and those interested in college athletics, to have a series of matches between representative teams in what was regarded as pre-eminently the great college game.

The reason for this feeling was founded in the desire for a closer connection among the universities in athletics and the desire of their authorities to influence more effectively the spirit and practice of the game and to check a seeming tendency towards professionalism.<sup>18</sup>

The teams were from McGill University, Montreal; Queen's University, Kingston, University of Toronto, Toronto; Ottawa College, Ottawa; Royal Military College, Kingston; Trinity College, Toronto; Bishop's College, Lennoxville; and McMaster University, Toronto. Dr. H.B. Yates of McGill donated a cup for competition in the senior series. Known as the Yates Cup, it was first won by the University of Toronto, known as Varsity, in 1898, the first year of competition.

Having been accepted into the C.R.U., Varsity played off with the winners of the Ontario Union, the Ottawa Football Club, and was defeated by a score of 7 to 3. The Ottawa Football Club next played and defeated the Ottawa College team, champions of the newly expanded Q.R.U. The Intercollegiate Union, however, resigned with "deep regret" from the C.R.U. and it was not until 1905 that the C.I.R.F.U. again became a member.

It was a particularly embarrassing year for the C.R.U., because, as the minutes of 1898 note; "The Amateur Athletic Association of Canada suspended your president (Mr. Edward Bayly) from its amateur ranks, for taking money for refereeing games in the O.R.F.U."<sup>19</sup> The C.R.U. recovered its composure in time to instruct its secretary to write to the secretary

---

<sup>18</sup> Spalding, op. cit.

<sup>19</sup> Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the C.R.U., 1898.





of the A.A.A. of C.

. . . stating that the C.R.U. appreciates the efforts of the A.A.A. of C. in protecting amateur ranks from every suspicion of professionalism but the C.R.U. desire to say that the action of the A.A.A. of C. is an interference which the C.R.U. considers beyond its jurisdiction.<sup>20</sup>

In 1902, the C.R.U. sanctioned the removal of the flying wing man and teams were thus cut down to fourteen players on each side. In the following year, it was decided to mark the field in championship games, by lines five yards apart, running across the field from goal line to goal line. There were problems for the C.R.U. as a result of a decision by the O.R.F.U. to change its rules. The O.R.F.U. so radically changed the style of play that a playoff between the two provincial unions was an impossibility. The O.R.F.U. changes were made mostly at the instigation of J.T.M. "Thrift" Burnside, a former captain of the University of Toronto team.

Burnside's rules were:

1. Reduction of teams from 14 to 12 men.
2. Adoption of the snapback system.
3. Offensive team required to make 10 yards on 3 downs.
4. Offensive team to have 6 men on the line of scrimmage.
5. The quarterback on receiving the ball from the snapback can buck the line.
6. All goals from the field whether by placement, drop kick, free kick from penalty or mark to count 2 points.
7. On all kicks opponents to stay 10 yards from kicker.
8. Throw-in from touch abolished and ball to be brought out at right angles to touch line.
9. The present rules of the C.R.U. be made to conform with the above changes.<sup>21</sup>

With the return of the Intercollegiate Union to the C.R.U., the latter body found itself in the awkward position of attempting to convene a championship match under rules which were not played by two of the three unions. The annual meeting of 1905 attempted to solve this by

---

<sup>20</sup>Ibid.

<sup>21</sup>Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the C.R.U., January 14, 1905.





passing a motion declaring that

. . . championship games shall be one hour in length, divided into four quarters of fifteen minutes each, unless otherwise agreed upon by Captains of both teams. The first two quarters shall be played under the rules selected by the team winning the toss and the last two under the rules selected by the team losing the toss.<sup>22</sup>

Because of this change, it became necessary to have two referees for each match where two different styles were played.

The problem was partly solved for the 1906 season when it was decided that the C.R.U. would adopt the Intercollegiate code of rules in its entirety. It was in these rules that the idea of a one yard distance between the opposing lines of scrimmage was put into effect. When the season was completed, however, the C.R.U. instituted another set of rules which were really a rearrangement of the old set of rules with only minor changes.

On September 15, 1907, another union came into existence. This was the Interprovincial Rugby Union which was a merger of the two strongest teams in the Quebec Rugby Union--Ottawa and Montreal--and the two strongest in the Ontario Union--Hamilton and Toronto. This practically ended the hopes of the Quebec Union in the Senior championship series and it considerably weakened the Ontario Union. The formation of the new union did not complicate the rules to any extent, for the new union decided that its rules would be those of the C.R.U.

All these various unions operated an Intermediate and Junior series. The Intermediate championship series had been operating as a "Canadian Championship" affair from 1894, when McGill was the winner. The first year for the Junior championship series was in 1908, with

---

<sup>22</sup>Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the C.R.U., January 14, 1905.



Parkdale of the Interprovincial Union defeating Lindsay, champions of the Ontario Union, 22-0.



## CHAPTER II

### GENERAL FEATURES OF CANADIAN FOOTBALL

#### IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO 1909

In some respects, the development of football in Canada paralleled the growth of the Canadian Nation. Canada in 1909 was a Colony, self-governing to be sure, with a measure of independence; an adolescent--ready to be distinctive and independent, yet without the necessary means of so being.

Rugby Football, in the year 1909, was neither rugby in the traditional sense nor football in the 1968 sense; rather, it seemed to be a sport torn between those advocates who would have it remain true to the "English" game and those who wanted change.

To be sure, the changes have been many. In 1909, each team played with fourteen men. The ball was put into play by heeling it out. (See Appendix A for the C.R.U. rules for 1909.) No interference was allowed, nor was tackling above the shoulders ("scragging"), or below the knees. A "fair catch" was part of the game, as was the "flying kick" and a "kick out". A "touch-down" was simply where the ball was declared "dead", while a "try" represented the score made when one side crossed the opponent's goal line.

A pass was when a ball was "thrown or handed by a player in any direction except towards the opponents' goal line",<sup>1</sup> but it is interesting to note that if the ball were thrown forward towards the opponents' goal line and one of the defenders made a mark with his heel while catching the ball before it bounced, the defenders' side would be allowed to put the ball into play from the point where the mark was made, by "punt, drop kick, place kick or scrimmage".<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>C.R.U. Playing Rules and Regulations--1909, Sec. I (10).

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., Sec. I (18 a, b.).





Although the game was divided up into quarters of fifteen minutes length, and the teams changed goals or ends at the end of each quarter, it was only with the start of the 1909 season that "kick-offs" to start each quarter were discontinued.

When the ball went into "touch", the side in possession, had the option of bringing the ball into the field of play "not less than five yards and not more than fifteen",<sup>3</sup> at right angles to the point where it went into "touch".

Possession of the ball was beginning to mean much to the teams of 1909, and there were two ways in which a team could maintain possession: by gaining ten or by losing twenty yards in three consecutive downs.<sup>4</sup> However, the twenty yards lost in three downs could only take place once in a series, in order to maintain possession.

Unfair or rough play was severely dealt with: the player was either expelled from the game for the remainder of time or "for such time as he (the referee) may deem expedient",<sup>5</sup> and a team could lose the ball for a variety of offences such as rough play or interference.

By 1909, the desired objective of a "uniform code" of rules among all the various Unions was, at last, close to achieving its desired objective. The Interprovincial Union also known as the "Big Four", as well as the Ontario Rugby Football Union, had decided to play their football during the season under the C.R.U. rules; only the Intercollegiate Union played under a slightly different code in its league games. In championship games between the Unions, the rules of the C.R.U. prevailed.

---

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., Sec. 7 (2).

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., Sec. 6 (4)a.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., Sec. 13.





In all their basic features, the rules of the Intercollegiate game were similar; only in minor interpretations and penalty assessments did the rules differ. Certainly, the differences were minor compared to the ones which had plagued the C.R.U. and football followers since the formation of the various Unions in Canada.

Of all these Unions, the Interprovincial was considered by many to be supreme. Since its formation in 1907, its teams had won Dominion Championship laurels rather handily and there seemed to be no reason why a "Big Four" team would not do so again in 1909.

The Intercollegiate Union however, had its many supporters and they were particularly heartened by the fact that in 1908 the Hamilton Tigers had defeated the University of Toronto teams by the close score of 21-17.

The Ontario Union was fast becoming the forgotten league. Weakened along with the Quebec Union, in 1907 by the withdrawal of its two strongest teams, the O.R.F.U. was struggling valiantly to field Senior representative teams in Toronto and smaller centres such as Peterborough and Dundas, in an attempt to regain its glorious past.

Perhaps the characteristic which would be first noticed by the football follower of 1968, were he able to view the game of 1909, would be the absence of any "huddle" by either team. After each "down", the offensive team would simply line up in a formation; the quarter-back would shout out a series of numbers and, on a pre-arranged signal, the ball would be heeled out and play would be under way.

Because of the method of putting the ball into play, there was an absence of "handing off" by the quarter-back to one of his half-backs. Instead, the ball was invariably heeled out to the quarter-back who in turn relayed it to one of his halves.

The ball carrier had one of two basic alternatives at that point:



he could plunge into the line in an attempt to gain some yards, in which case the remaining members of the backfield would push him from behind (which was legal--only interference in front of the ball carrier was illegal) trying, by the combined total of their mass, to assist him in gaining the yardage. This was the so-called "massed play", aptly named but frowned upon by football followers, since the game seemed to degenerate into a shoving and pulling match. In key situations, the plunger was likely to be the middle wing who was brought back into the backfield because of his greater weight and subsequently greater momentum, in plunging for the necessary yards. His place on the wing-line would be taken by a half-back.

The other alternative would be for all the half-backs to proceed in the same direction toward the touch line as the ball was about to be put into play, all the time prepared to take a pass or lateral on an extension play. They also had to be ready to turn up field at any time to recover the ball in the event that one of the halves kicked it downfield--something that was possible at any time.

Defensively, the massed plays were stopped either by getting behind the ball carrier in order to pull him and his help to the ground or falling in front of the ball carrier, hoping not to get crushed in the ensuing pile of bodies.

There was an absence of crisp, decisive tackling, but this was indicated by the style of play. Defensive men had to approach the ball carrier, on an extension play, in an upright, rather than a diving position, because of the many options open to the ball carrier. The defensive man had to be ready to react immediately if the ball were lateralled, or if the ball carrier turned up field on a "rush" after "faking" the extension. He had to pursue if the ball were lateralled and be in a position to pick





up an errant lateral or turn and run downfield toward his own goal line if the ball were kicked.

All Unions were in agreement about the question of amateur restrictions and residence requirements. The definition of an amateur was essentially the one first passed by the C.R.U. in 1896 (see page 6 ), while the residence rule demanded that a player be a resident of the city or town in which he played football. The universities of course, were exempt from this regulation--their equivalent rule was that their players had to be certified students of the University and be academically qualified to play (academic qualification meant that the player was a bona fide student and had been successful in his previous year's examinations).

It was under these circumstances that the Interprovincial Rugby Football Union, the Ontario Rugby Football Union and the Canadian Intercollegiate Rugby Football Union commenced their respective seasons in 1909: a year in which for the first time, the "Dominion Championship" was to be represented by a new symbol--the Earl Grey Cup.





## CHAPTER III

### THE GREY CUP

Whether the love for sport was influenced by their British Public School education, or perhaps because of the concept that sport could be used to weave the fabric of a young nation, the fact remains that the name of many a Governor-General of Canada decorates various trophies indicating supremacy in major Canadian sports: Soccer had its Connaught Cup, Lacrosse its Minto Cup, while Hockey, since 1892, has had the Stanley Cup.

Canadian Football, too, has its own trophy donated by a Governor-General; the Earl Grey Cup, donated in 1909 by--to give him his proper designation--His Excellency, the Right Honorable, Sir Albert Henry George, Earl Grey, Viscount of Howick, Baron Grey of Howick, in the County of Northumberland, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, One of His Majesty's Honorable Privy Council and a Baronet; Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order etc., etc.

Lord Grey received his commission as Governor General of Canada on September 26, 1904, his normal term of office to expire on September 26, 1909.

Although he was later asked, on April 19, 1909, by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to accept an extension for one year (later to be extended again by one year because of the death of Edward VII), Lord Grey, through his Military Secretary, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Hanbury-Williams, initiated plans for the Cup before the date of April 19, 1909, at a time when Grey believed that he would have approximately five more months in Canada. The announcement concerning the donation of the Cup was made public in Canada on June 1, 1909. Whether Grey was, in fact,





Fig. 1. Earl Grey



Fig. 2. Grey Cup



attempting to give the Canadian sporting scene something by which his name would be perpetuated is open to conjecture.

However, whereas the initiative for the cup prior to April 19, 1909, was for the most part directed by Grey's staff, particularly Hanbury-Williams, after that date it appears that were it not for the trustees, Canada might possibly be without the Grey Cup today.

In March of 1909, Earl Grey instructed his military secretary, Hanbury-Williams, to contact P.D. Ross, the president of the Ottawa Journal and a Trustee of both the Minto and Stanley Cups, with a view to inviting Ross to be a Trustee of a new Cup. Ross was also asked if he would draw up the conditions under which the Cup would be awarded.

Ross, however, politely declined because "I am doing more than my duty, as a trustee of the Stanley and Minto Cups."<sup>1</sup> But, in declining, he offered the Governor-General the advice that rather than have a non-trustee (Ross) formulate the conditions:

May I venture to suggest that instead, His Excellency would name the trustees of the Cup, and authorize them to draw up conditions, (subject only to His Excellency's desire that the Cup must remain always under purely amateur conditions)? This was the course followed with the Stanley and Minto Cups, and it would be well I think to let the trustees who are to have the handling of the Cup feel that the entire responsibility is theirs, rather than having a set of conditions established to be followed by them, although drawn up by myself, or others, who might not be trustees.<sup>2</sup>

Ross concluded by recommending three men as trustees. They were: H.B. McGiverin, M.P. Ottawa; Percival Molson of the National Trust Company, Montreal; and the Reverend D.B. Macdonald, M.A., LL.D., rector of St. Andrew's College, Toronto.

---

<sup>1</sup>Football Hall of Fame, Letter from Ross to Hanbury-Williams, March 29, 1909.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., BRACKETS AND QUESTION mark penned in by Ross.







If there were any confusion in Hanbury-William's first letter to P.D. Ross, regarding Lord Grey's desire to have the competition for the Cup under purely amateur conditions, there was certainly no such doubt in the letter to each of the prospective trustees. After stating that the Governor-General wished to give a challenge cup for the Rugby Football Championship of Canada, the letter went on to state that the Governor-General wanted the trustees to draw up the necessary rules, "including the special one that the Cup must remain always under purely amateur conditions."<sup>3</sup>

Two weeks passed before all the prospective appointees replied to the letter. Molson replied within a day, whereas both McGiverin and Macdonald, being on vacation, replied by April 16, 1909. All three men accepted the appointment.

It was 3 days later, on April 19, that Grey's term was extended for a year and, perhaps coincidentally, the desire for the Cup seemed to lose its urgency, especially on the part of Grey's staff.

On May 3, Hanbury-Williams acknowledged the receipt of the letters by writing to McGiverin asking him to "take the matter up with your colleagues at the earliest possible date, arranging conditions, etc., so that an announcement may be made in the press."<sup>4</sup>

Using the conditions regarding the challenge for the Minto Cup as a guideline, the three trustees prepared the necessary regulations and informed Hanbury-Williams of this on May 29. (Lord Minto, a former Governor-General of Canada was, by coincidence, a brother-in-law of Earl-Grey.)

---

<sup>3</sup>Football Hall of Fame, Letter from Hanbury-Williams to D.B. Macdonald, April 2, 1909, (underlining part of original letter).

<sup>4</sup>Football Hall of Fame, Letter from Hanbury-Williams to H.B. McGiverin, May 3, 1909.



On May 31, McGiverin received the following telegram:

Many thanks letter  
rules approved please publish  
right away Hanbury-Williams.<sup>5</sup>

On June 1, 1909, the official press release appeared in the Ottawa Journal (see Appendix B), and Earl Grey's importance to Canadian sporting life was ensured forever, (although there was certainly no such indication at the time).

The Governor-General himself was a lover of a variety of sports, and this encouragement of the sporting-life seemed to be part of his nature. During Grey's term of office;

. . . skating and tobogganing parties are held every Saturday afternoon in the winter season . . . He skis, snowshoes, or curls. In the summer he plays golf, cricket, and does not disdain a good game of lawn bowling. He is a good traveller, fond of fishing and an enthusiastic patron of the turf. During an evening he enjoys a good game of billiards or a rubber of bridge . . .<sup>6</sup>

Grey was so fond of horses and racing that each year a house was taken in Toronto during the Spring Meet of the Ontario Jockey Club. Evidently Grey spent some time at the races in Montreal as well; as late as 1916, the Earl Grey Trophy was still being raced for and in that year, a horse named "Grumpy" won the Montreal Jockey Club's "1½ Mile, \$1,500.00 added money" race and the Earl Grey Trophy, at Blue Bonnets Raceway.

Montreal was also the home of the Earl Grey Skating Club, which was founded in December of 1908. It was described as an "organization

---

<sup>5</sup> Football Hall of Fame, Telegram from Hanbury-Williams to H.B. McGiverin, May 31, 1909.

<sup>6</sup> G.B. Van Blaricom, "How The Governor-General Earns Salary" The Busy Man's Magazine (Maclean's), Vol. XVII, September, 1909.





comprising most of the well known society people of the city . . . with the object of fostering a love for Canadian Winter Sport in general, and the art of skating both plain and figure, in particular."<sup>7</sup>

Between May and November of 1909, all mention of the Grey Cup disappeared. The actual press release was carried by very few papers, and as the Rugby season opened and was drawing to a close, the trustees in particular seemed to be unaware of the situation regarding the Cup itself.

Two weeks prior to the time that the "Dominion Championship Game" was to be played, Trustee McGiverin wrote to Arthur F. Sladen, the Governor-General's personal secretary: "you might respectfully suggest to His Excellency that the Cup should be in the hands of the trustees as soon as possible. I am writing you personally in this matter, as perhaps His Excellency has already ordered the Cup."<sup>8</sup>

By January, 1910, the first Grey Cup Game having been completed, on December 4, 1909, the Cup was nowhere to be found, and Sladen, on January 22, in replying to McGiverin's further enquiry of January 20, reported that the Trophy had been scratched and would be sent shortly.

McGiverin's anxiety by this time was beginning to manifest itself for on January 24, 1910, he again wrote, asking that the matter be expedited in order to allow the press to photograph the Cup, previous to its being sent to the University of Toronto, the first winners. McGiverin by this time was corresponding with Arthur Guise, the Controller of Government House in Ottawa. Somehow the matter had passed from Hanbury-Williams to Sladen and now to Guise.

---

<sup>7</sup>Montreal Gazette, December 19, 1908.

<sup>8</sup>Football Hall of Fame, Letter to Arthur Sladen from H.B. McGiverin, November 5, 1909.





At long last the Grey Cup was delivered to the Rev. Bruce Macdonald on February 7, 1910; Henry Birks and Sons, the company which made the trophy, also did the delivering.

The Reverend Macdonald patiently observed, in a letter to Guise, "I notice that there is no inscription whatever on it. This may be His Excellency's wish, and on the other hand, it may be an oversight on the part of the manufacturers."<sup>9</sup> Macdonald proceeded, somewhat plaintively, to ask to be advised of the Governor-General's wishes regarding the inscription.

Guise's reply was sent seventeen days later. In his letter, he described what he thought would be a suitable inscription. The Cup was to be engraved in the following manner:

Grey Cup

Dominion Amateur Rugby Football

On the base of the Cup was to be a shield engraved: University of Toronto A.A. 1909.

However, seventeen days appeared to be too long for Reverend Macdonald to wait, for in the interim he consulted with Mr. McGiverin and the two of them arrived at the decision to engrave the Cup with their own inscription. Macdonald's letter was dated February 25.

By March 22, Macdonald reported happily to H.B. McGiverin that the engravers and the photographer had finished with the Cup. Along with the news that copies of the photograph were being sent to McGiverin under separate cover, Macdonald explained that;

---

<sup>9</sup>Football Hall of Fame, Letter from Reverend Bruce Macdonald to Arthur Guise, February 7, 1910.



I have had the cup properly engraved and handed over to Varsity. The engraving on the cup is as follows "Presented by His Excellency Earl Grey for the Amateur Rugby Football Championship of Canada". The work has been very well done and the appearance of the Cup is considerably improved thereby. The base sent out from the Old Country was quite inadequate, being too small. The cup did not look well on it and it would have been quite impossible for the winning team to have affixed shields recording their names. The new base I have had attached to the cup so that they will not become readily separated and the cup will not be in danger of being knocked off and thus injured.<sup>10</sup>

It appears though, that Reverend Macdonald thought it would be more proper if his letter, along with an account for the engraving charges were forwarded to Arthur Guise by H.B. McGiverin, M.P.

McGiverin's letter marked "Personal", is as follows:

House of Commons,  
Ottawa.

Arthur Guise, Esq.  
Government House,  
Ottawa.

April 4th, 1910

My Dear Guise;

I am sending you an account and letter from Reverend Bruce Macdonald, re His Excellency's Cup. You might let me know confidentially what you think of the account, and if there is the slightest disposition on the part of His Excellency against it, we will pay the account ourselves and charge it up against the future expenses in the running of the Cup.

Enclosure

Yours faithfully,  
H.B. McGiverin. (signed)<sup>11</sup>

It is not recorded whether Macdonald and McGiverin or Earl Grey paid for the alterations and engravings; nor is there any mention in subsequent C.R.U. meetings of such expenses being deducted from the funds of the Championship game.

---

<sup>10</sup>Football Hall of Fame, Letter from D.B. Macdonald to H.P. McGiverin, March 22, 1910.

<sup>11</sup>Football Hall of Fame, Letter from H.P. McGiverin, M.P. to Arthur Guise, April 4, 1910.





In spite of its haphazard beginnings, however, the Grey Cup survived to become one of the most cherished and sought after trophies in Canadian sporting history.



## CHAPTER IV

### "THE UNIVERSITY GAME" 1909 - 1924

#### 1909 - 1914

Rugby is too rough a game. How often the followers of the gridiron sport hear comments like this about the game - "It's too rough", and "the boys get hurt", and "it isn't good for them".

Of course if fond mammas want their youthful pride and hope to grow up like a banana plant in a greenhouse, there is little sense in arguing the point. The game is too rough for molley coddles. On the contrary, if the boy is to be taught to fight his way in the great battle of life, there is no game that will teach him how in a better way. He'll get plenty of knocks and raise many a crop of healthy bruises but he gains stamina and the knocks he gets, if he is an ordinary cuss in later life, will be equally as hard.<sup>1</sup>

Football in Canada, whether it was to be considered as a preparation for life or solely as a means of enjoyment, was, in September of 1909, beginning to receive much attention in the sport pages, as may be seen by the following comments.

In Hamilton, the announcement was made that the "Tigers" would play their first game out of town "because of the autumn meeting of the Jockey Club from September 28 - October 9".<sup>2</sup> In Montreal, the announcement was made of Savage's retirement. Savage was the Captain of the Montreal entry in the I.R.F.U. and the news of his retirement, while known by the executive for a month, was "kept quiet until the last possible moment for fear of the evil effect it would have on the M.A.A.A. followers and backers".<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>Toronto Globe, September 22, 1909.

<sup>2</sup>Toronto Globe, September 2, 1909.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.





In Ottawa, Jack "Rufus" Ryan, suspended by the Interprovincial league "for having played with or against professional hockey players",<sup>4</sup> was working out with the Ottawa Football Club while appealing his case.

Toronto was reported to have enough material on hand to pick "as strong a wing line as they have ever had--Russel 210, Baycroft 200, Ryan 205, Sinclair 195, Bargett 195, Kent, 190, Grant 185, Jeff Taylor and Dee Taylor 190, Hugh Brown 200, W. Brown 185."<sup>5</sup>

In the O.R.F.U., the Toronto Amateur Athletic Club had held a meeting in early September at their club house "to take preliminary steps towards organizing a team for the coming season."<sup>6</sup>

The University of Toronto, under coach Harry Griffiths, held its first practice on Monday September 20th.

Outside of the University teams, the various football teams were organized as one activity of an Amateur Athletic Association such as the Montreal A.A.A., the Hamilton A.A.A., and the Toronto Amateur Athletic Club; or in many cases, the football team was organized to keep the athletes in condition in preparation for the rowing season, as was the case with the Toronto Argonauts.

Although the teams were organized primarily for club members, try-outs were available to all, and if a non-member became a part of the football team he was made an honorary member of the club for the purposes of football--a necessity since most of the constitutions of various clubs limited club activities to members only.

---

<sup>4</sup>Toronto Globe, September 18, 1909.

<sup>5</sup>Toronto Globe, September 25, 1909.

<sup>6</sup>Toronto Globe, September 1, 1909.





Typical of the announcement that a club would place in the newspaper was the following: "The Argonaut Football Club will hold its first practice of the year on Wednesday at 5:00 P.M. at Bayside Park. All members and others wishing to try for a position on the team will please take notice and be on hand."<sup>7</sup>

Immediately prior to the opening of the season, the Ottawa Football Club announced that sixteen accident policies worth \$1,000 each or \$10 per week were taken out for its players; "as a protection for the players as well as the club . . . last year Bert Stronach injured both his knees to such an extent that he had to go to Scotland to have them operated upon--the operation alone cost him \$200."<sup>8</sup>

Inter city rivalry was keen, and the Ottawa Journal was not above reporting that ". . . it is strange that with all the football material there is training around Toronto, the Argonauts cannot develop a winning team."<sup>9</sup>

That year Ottawa and Hamilton finished their six game schedule with identical records--five wins and one loss--and a playoff was necessary to determine the I.R.F.U. championship. The game, to be played in neutral Toronto, attracted much interest; twenty-three hundred seats went on sale simultaneously in Toronto, Ottawa and Hamilton, and within two hours all were sold. The game had all the aspects of a gay celebration:

---

<sup>7</sup>Toronto Globe, September 7, 1909.

<sup>8</sup>Toronto Globe, October 4, 1909.

<sup>9</sup>Ottawa Journal, October 21, 1909.





Five bands and the organized singing of the rooters clubs from both football places made the football look almost incidental to the demonstrations of their supporters. The Ottawa Club came early and no man who had red blood in his veins and could leave the Capital, stayed there Friday night. Hamilton's yellow chrysanthemums were everywhere about town by midday and altogether it was as big a football day as has been seen in Canada in many a year.<sup>10</sup>

Ottawa defeated Hamilton 14-8, and the stage seemed set for the newly crowned champions of the "Big Four" to meet the University of Toronto team in the first Grey Cup game.

Ticket prices were \$1.00 for the grandstand and 50¢ for the bleachers, and in Ottawa a rate of \$7.70 was charged by the railroad for the trip to Toronto. Tom "King" Clancy was the coach of the favored Ottawa team and he, a former American who went to Ottawa College is credited with giving the Ottawas their name of "Rough Riders" because of his admiration for Teddy Roosevelt's famous military outfit of the same name.<sup>11</sup> Harry Griffiths was the coach of the University team, which few conceded any chance of defeating the Ottawa team.

However, what appeared to be the last game of the 1909 season and the first Grey Cup game was not to be. An announcement from the office of H.B. McGiverin, M.P., notified the Ottawa team that the O.R.F.U. had been recognized by the Grey Cup trustees, and that "neither the champions of the Interprovincial or Intercollegiate could lay claim to the Grey Cup without first defeating the winners of the O.R.F.U."<sup>12</sup>

The proposed game with the O.R.F.U. winners seemed to be a long way off, however, because of certain events taking place in Ottawa.

---

<sup>10</sup>Toronto Globe, November 22, 1909.

<sup>11</sup>Mike Rodden, An Interview with the writer, May 1968.

<sup>12</sup>Toronto Globe, November 24, 1909.





There was consternation among the executive of that club because of the announcement that Dr. Hendry, a former University of Toronto student, was to be the referee, and because of threats made by University of Toronto students, the Ottawa Bugle Band was not allowed to go on the field.

The players too, were in an angry mood. They complained that they were not able to purchase tickets for friends because the executive had purchased them all. Williams and Phillips threatened to stay home while Stronach announced that he was going on a hunting and fishing trip and would not be available for the game. Faced with this problem, the executives found some tickets and the train left Ottawa Friday night at 10:00 p.m. for the Saturday afternoon game.

Close to 11,000 people watched the University of Toronto team overwhelm the Ottawa Rough Riders by a score of 31-7 on November 27, 1909, while in Ottawa another "10,000 people stood outside the Citizen and Journal offices watching dummy figures playing the game on a wire gridiron while listening to the game."<sup>13</sup>

Three days after the game, it was announced that:

. . . the total receipts at Rosedale Saturday amounted to the enormous sum of \$7,323, representing an attendance of close to 11,000 people, exclusive of the dead-heads. The chief expenses were \$400 for the new stand, \$200 for the grounds and \$250 for Ottawa's expenses. The teams will receive about \$3100 each.<sup>14</sup>

The University of Toronto team was the pride of Toronto, and though the team boasted many fine players such as Captain Jack Newton

---

<sup>13</sup>Toronto Globe, November 29, 1909.

<sup>14</sup>Toronto Globe, November 30, 1909.





and Hughie Gall, the individual deemed most responsible for the team's success was Smirle Lawson, who was known to the football public as the "Big Train", an epithet that would later grace another fine athlete-- Lionel Conacher. "Lawson's equal has never been seen", said the Globe; "stick him with Yale or Harvard and Americans would never cease talking of the great plunging half-back."<sup>15</sup>

Because of the overwhelming victory and the universal disregard for the calibre of O.R.F.U. football, the ensuing game between Parkdale and Varsity, as the University team was known, attracted little attention. Varsity's success seemed a foregone conclusion and only 3800 spectators turned out at Rosedale Field on December 4th, to see the University subdue the surprisingly strong Toronto Parkdale team 26-6, and become "Dominion Champions" and the first winners of the Earl Grey Cup. It should be noted, however, that there was no mention of the Cup in reports of the game and it was not presented to Varsity until March of 1910.

With the exception of an exhibition game between Hamilton and Ottawa, which was played December 11 at Van Cortlandt Park in New York, the Canadian football season was over, and from the Sporting Editor of the Ottawa Free Press came an analysis of some of the needs of Canadian football.

The Interference Rule, he stated, particularly on the extension play, was continually flouted because, "as a tackler approaches him, the runner will pass to his own man and continue to run unconsciously blocking a tackle from the opposing side. This worked from man to man until the the ball has reached the man farthest out."<sup>16</sup>

---

<sup>15</sup> Toronto Globe, December 1, 1909.

<sup>16</sup> Malcom T. Brice, Sporting Editor of the Ottawa Free Press as quoted in the Toronto Globe, December 10, 1909.





Hamilton, particularly, had taken advantage of this type of play and according to Brice, it was not until the deciding game of the Inter-provincial series that Ottawa "countered this great ground-gainer . . . The outside wing made straight for the back who was farthest out as soon as the run was started and Hamilton's greatest asset was wiped out."<sup>17</sup>

The "Onside Kick", a surprise play used quite effectively by the University of Toronto, was also thought, by Brice, to be worthy of improvement because "it can be exceedingly dangerous, as the back who takes the punt is left open to heavy charging by the onside men who run up under their own kick".<sup>18</sup>

But Brice felt, there was a more fundamental problem in the Canadian game--too many men played it. Removing the two side scrimmage men would alleviate the "tangled and ragged play . . . give greater opportunities for end running and add compactness to the play".<sup>19</sup> The idea was also advanced that the distance between the opposing scrimmage lines should be increased, the result being that "the movements of the ball would be more perceptible to the spectators as well as the opposing players and either necessitate lightning execution of trick plays or compel the backs to figure prominently in a run".<sup>20</sup>

Canadian football made its way back into the United States in the latter part of 1909 when the Ottawa Rough Riders and the Hamilton

---

<sup>17</sup>Ibid.

<sup>18</sup>Ibid.

<sup>19</sup>Ibid.

<sup>20</sup>Ibid.





Tigers, at the invitation of the New York Herald, played at Van Cortlandt Park in New York to demonstrate the "Canadian game", before a crowd variously estimated from twelve to fifteen thousand spectators. The period characterized by one author as "Football's Ugly Decades"<sup>21</sup> was drawing to a close in the United States, and the game was arranged in order to assist the American rules makers in making the American intercollegiate game safer.

Among the American officials present were Lieutenant H.M. Nelly, coach of Army; Walter Camp and Henry Wheaton from Yale; Percy Haughton, coach of Harvard; Amos Alonzo Stagg of the University of Chicago; and various members of the Intercollegiate Rules Committee.<sup>22</sup>

While the Times expressed its thanks to the Herald for its initiative in arranging the contest for the benefit of the rules makers, it nonetheless was quick to point out that:

It was the almost unanimous opinion of the many prominent American football players past and present, who saw yesterday's contest that the Canadian game, with its tackling, heavy formations and mass plays, and close knit offense and defense, would, in the hands of our colleges, make a field a charnel house and the present university game by comparison a mere molleycoddle sport . . . to return to the game from which the American college game was evolved would entail a bigger hospital list, and possibly more fatalities every year than is now the case in five seasons of our brand of football.<sup>23</sup>

One of the features of the Canadian game that was not lauded was the tackling; "there was a total absence of that clean and decisive

---

<sup>21</sup>John Hammond Moore, "Football's Ugly Decades". Smithsonian Journal of History, Fall, 1967, p. 49-68.

<sup>22</sup>New York Times, December 12, 1909.

<sup>23</sup>Ibid.





'getting a man' . . . the tackling was all around the waist and the runner seldom failed to gain considerable distance when he should have been stopped short."<sup>24</sup> The reporter went on to say that not once during the afternoon was a true diving tackle made, for the tacklers never threw themselves at the runner, preferring rather to remain almost upright and then attempt to stop him with an outstretched arm. What the reporter possibly did not know was that the style of play and the penalty for high and low tackles militated against this type of play. The Americans were wary too, of the formations used, and the method of putting the ball into play. It seemed to be a "pretext and means of employing the flying wedge of two decades ago".<sup>25</sup> As unimpressed as they were with the five man tandem buck and the tackling, there were features which did appeal to the Americans:

Undoubtedly, the prettiest part of the game as it is played in the Dominion is the manner in which a runner passes or kicks the ball in a forward direction just before or just after he is tackled . . . under this style of play it might be the worst thing in the world to dive at the runner since one could never be certain but that he would heave the ball twenty or thirty yards, or even further, into his opponent's territory after the tackle had been made. Under the Canadian rules the ball is not dead until there is no possibility of advancing it farther.<sup>26</sup>

The "flying kick" was another feature which was "so slick and easily performed that numerous notebooks were pulled out of American breastpockets".<sup>27</sup> It was described as follows:

---

<sup>24</sup>Ibid.

<sup>25</sup>Ibid.

<sup>26</sup>Ibid.

<sup>27</sup>Ibid.





Instead of the quarterback passing the ball to the kicker--under the Canadian rules only the third man touching the ball can put it in actual play (sic) which of course forbids a pass for a kick directly from the centre to the player corresponding to the American fullback--the quarter would make an extremely low, slow pass, so that the ball hit on one of its ends, just a foot or so ahead of the kicker. As it bounded upward and at the exact instant it left the ground, he would kick the ball, thus completing a drop kick even under American rules.<sup>28</sup>

The granting of a three yard protective zone (in Intercollegiate it was five) to the punt returner was lauded, but to the American observer there seemed to be a lack of a coherent plan of attack. The ball was thrown around in a free and easy fashion, seemingly trusting to luck for its recovery. Punts and kicks of all descriptions were tried with spontaneous abandon. The American spectator was of the opinion that many aspects of the Canadian game were neither planned nor purposeful.

In the final analysis the Times submitted the following about the contest that was played in order to supply ideas for making the American game safer:

If we played this game in our colleges, it would be stopped by the police within one month as too great a menace to life. It's a good enough game if played slowly and phlegmatically but it would never be safe to permit our college men to indulge in it with their keen and ever present desires to win.<sup>29</sup>

It was a contented group of C.R.U. delegates who attended the 1910 Annual Meeting at the Windsor Hotel in Montreal. The 1909 season was a successful one and the University of Toronto team was "pronounced by all football observers as the greatest team Canada has ever known . . . they have at all times played clean and scientific football".<sup>30</sup> Proof that

---

<sup>28</sup>Ibid.

<sup>29</sup>Ibid.

<sup>30</sup>Secretary's Annual Report, Minutes of C.R.U. Annual Meeting, January 8, 1910.





the game was progressing and the rules satisfactory to the majority of players was offered in the announcement that there would be very few amendments to the playing rules for 1910.

The rule regarding "kick outs" was revised to read: "A kick out is a drop kick from not more than 25 yards from the kicker's goal line and must move to the 30 yard line unless blocked by an opponent".<sup>31</sup> More significant was the decision that "a distinctive line shall be marked across the field at the centre at right angles to the touch line and similar lines every ten yards from the goal line and parallel to it".<sup>32</sup> This marking was to ensure that the game officials would have an easier time in determining when a team had gained or lost the necessary yardage for a first down.

Arrangements were also made, by means of a constitutional amendment for any Union in the Dominion "willing to comply with the rules of this Union",<sup>33</sup> to be elected to membership only on application to the secretary and on payment of an annual fee of five dollars in advance. Perhaps the C.R.U. officials envisaged the day when the fledgling Unions in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta would challenge for and make the "Dominion Championship" competition more representative.

While the University of Toronto team was granted the traditional C.R.U. caps, red in color with a gold braid, for the winning of the Dominion Championship, the Ottawa Football Club, enjoying one of its most profitable seasons, gave its members a choice of a gold watch

---

<sup>31</sup>Minutes of the C.R.U. Annual Meeting, January 8, 1910.

<sup>32</sup>Ibid.

<sup>33</sup>Ibid.





or diamond ring, each worth \$100 along with "group photos and a coat sweater, the latter being a gift of the Union"<sup>34</sup> (Interprovincial). It was evident, though that the "city leagues" were in trouble; Ottawa would play in 1910 without some of its best men "because of the trip of the Ottawa Rowing Club to Henley next year. The oarsmen are not taking chances of being injured".<sup>35</sup> Coupled with this was the announcement that the new Civil Service Act required the workers to stay until five p.m. instead of four. Hamilton, too, had its problems with employment in that city. It was announced that Ross Binkley, "the Dundas back-fielder whom Hamilton Tigers were unable to land because they couldn't get him better than a dollar and a quarter a day position with the Corporation turned out with the Argos".<sup>36</sup> As a result of this, and the fact that Jack Grey's firm refused to pay him his salary while he was playing football, "the Hamilton papers are using up an awful amount of gasoline berating said firm".<sup>37</sup>

Prior to the opening of the 1910 season, the O.R.F.U. held its annual meeting at the King Edward Hotel in Toronto. Just how deep the breach between the two city leagues had become was illustrated by the discussion following an application for senior membership by a Hamilton concern:

The representatives were given to understand most plainly that any team directly or indirectly involved with a senior I.R.F.U. club would not be tolerated in the O.R.F.U. for a

---

<sup>34</sup>Toronto Globe, March 1, 1910.

<sup>35</sup>Toronto Globe, August 27, 1910.

<sup>36</sup>Toronto Globe, September 21, 1910.

<sup>37</sup>Ibid.





moment and that in making their application for admission, Messrs. Foster, Nelson and Long, sponsors of the new club must present a written personal declaration signed by each of the three, that there is no understanding, open or secret with the Tigers. This means that the O.R.F.U. does not intend to allow itself to be made use of by Interprovincial clubs.<sup>38</sup>

The H.A.A.A. opened its new field October 8th, with the Tigers defeating the Ottawa Rough Riders 7-2. Soon after, the Hamilton Spectator intimated that Ottawa was using professionals. The incensed Ottawa officials threatened to sue the Hamilton paper for libel, noting that:

. . . the paper has been particularly keen for some seasons past to take a fling at the Ottawa club and individuals connected with it. Two years ago insinuations were made against Jack Williams. Last year the same paper made disparaging remarks about Martin Kilt and had to retract. The local club will not stand for any further slurs.<sup>39</sup>

Apparently there were few names that one could be called worse than "a professional". Ottawa not only countered with their threatened suit; they also advanced the revealing information gleaned from a Sudbury newspaper--later proved false--that "Kid" Smith of the Tigers was really a professional who at one time played with the Copper Cliff baseball team in the North Shore League.

It was also during the 1910 season that the first "protest" in the history of the I.R.F.U. was heard by the executive of that body. Argos protested that the game of November 5th, which was won by Ottawa by a score of 23-20, should be replayed for the following reasons: the game started at 3:15 instead of the scheduled time of 2:45; darkness had fallen before the close of the last quarter; time was up before the ball was put into play when Ottawa scored their last try, and

---

<sup>38</sup>Toronto Globe, September 3, 1910.

<sup>39</sup>Toronto Globe, October 14, 1910.





McCann was offside when he scored the fourth try. At a special meeting of the I.R.F.U. on Thursday November 10, the protest was disallowed.

At the end of the schedule, Varsity again won the Intercollegiate championship, while in the O.R.F.U. the Toronto Amateur Athletic Club was the winner and Hamilton was victorious in the Interprovincial Union. Varsity bested the T.A.A.C. 22-3 and prepared to meet the Tigers in Hamilton for the Dominion Championship. In Hamilton the H.A.A.A. took advantage of the enthusiasm aroused by the game to announce that memberships in that organization would be for sale--the incentive being that each member was allowed to purchase four tickets before the sale to the general public. Over 500 memberships, at a price of \$5.00 each were sold, and the sale to members accounted for over 5000 of the best seats.

The general sale started at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, November 22, but:

. . . as early as six p.m. Monday, boys and old men began to gather in front of Stanley Mills' store and before midnight the line extended down Hughson St. Camp stools, biscuit boxes and orange crates were used as seats and the big gathering passed the cold dreary night as best they could, cracking jokes and comforted by the hope that when morning came, they would be well rewarded. Some late arrivals paid as much as \$2.00 for a place in line to secure a 50¢ bleacher seat. Grandstand tickets brought \$5.00 during the morning and some who were very anxious to witness the game paid as much as \$15.00 a pair.<sup>40</sup>

From Toronto came the news that a rate of \$1.55 per person had been obtained from the railways and at least three train-loads would be travelling to Hamilton. The T.A.A.C. announced that arrangements had been made with the Hamilton Steamboat Company to carry supports across the lake aboard the "Macassa". While preparing for the invasion of the

---

<sup>40</sup>Toronto Globe, November 23, 1910.





Toronto students, the Hamilton police chief denied that the Militia would be called in to control the boisterous students.

The Hamilton team in the meantime, arranged to have former captain Seppi DuMoulin return to take over the coaching duties for two weeks. DuMoulin, who was banking in Moose Jaw, consented, and upon his return enlisted the coach of the Toronto Argos, Chaucer Elliot, as an assistant.

As the day of the game approached, "the price of Chrysanthemums had risen to \$3.00 a dozen",<sup>41</sup> and plans for extra editions of the Hamilton papers had to be abandoned because "the newspapers' compositors, pressmen, stereotypers and others refused to get out the extras--they want to see the battle at the cricket grounds".<sup>42</sup> A further indication that the contest had indeed attracted a great amount of interest was the appearance of counterfeit tickets for the Championship game.

The official attendance was announced as 12,000 but:

. . . other thousands were outside the enclosure trying to get in. They rushed the fences only to be driven back by mounted police until by sheer force of numbers they overcame the officers and joined the cheering throng inside.<sup>43</sup>

Varsity's 16-7 victory was front-page news in Toronto and once more the "Canadian Championship" rested with the University team. It was during this game that "Varsity introduced a new one during delays--attendants rushed on the field with very heavy and stiff wire brushes with which

---

<sup>41</sup>Toronto Globe, November 24, 1910.

<sup>42</sup>Ibid.

<sup>43</sup>Toronto Globe, November 28, 1910.





they removed the clotted clay from the cleats of the players' shoes".<sup>44</sup>

After the Intercollegiate meeting of December 19, 1910, the rules of that body were brought into closer harmony with those of the C.R.U. It was decided to adopt the C.R.U. regulations that the kick off must travel five yards towards the opponents' goal line and the three yard protection zone for the punt receiver. As a result, there were few material differences in the codes. In the C.R.U., penalties inside the 10 yard line resulted in half the distance to the goal line being assessed, whereas in the Intercollegiate, half the distance was assessed inside the 20 yard lines. The scrimmage rule was the same in spirit, but differed in interpretation. The C.R.U. stated that opposing players must not come into contact with each other until the ball was put into play, while the Intercollegiate rules specified that the distance between the opposing lines must be at least 3 feet--the same distance it was in 1968. The kick out rule in the Intercollegiate Union specified a drop kick of one yard minimum in any direction. The C.R.U. rules specified that the kick out could only travel in the direction of the opponents' goal line and must travel a minimum of five yards. After the meeting of 1911, however, this was revised to state that the drop kick "must move at least five yards in any direction or the team kicking out be given the option of scrimmaging on the twenty five yard line".<sup>45</sup>

These changes not only brought the two sets of regulations closer together they also revealed the continuing trend towards the importance of possession of the ball in a predetermined manner rather than by chance.

---

<sup>44</sup>Ibid.

<sup>45</sup>Minutes of the C.R.U. Annual Meeting, January 14, 1911.





A further change was made in allowing for substitution of injured players in any period, but "no player once removed shall re-enter the game unless by the consent of both captains".<sup>46</sup> This was a small concession; players still spent all four quarters on the field of play and the idea of substitution, though undergoing some change, was still widely discouraged.

During this time there was some discussion concerning proposals to change the scoring. One suggestion was that a try be categorized as "earned" or "unearned"; an "earned try" would be the result of the attacking side carrying the ball over the goal line, and it would count as 5 points and carry the right of conversion, while the "unearned try" resulting from a recovery of a fumbled ball in the opponents' goal area would count as 3 points and carry no right of conversion. The other suggestion asked that a rouge count one point when the receiving team was given an opportunity to field the ball. If the ball were kicked out of the goal area without having made contact with a player or the goal area, no point would be allowed. Both motions, however, were defeated.

The question of rules was gradually receding into the background during this period. There seemed to be the opinion that the public as well as the players and officials had in the past been subjected to too many changes, and consolidation and refinement of the rules of the game were necessary. The controversy regarding professionalism among the Interprovincial teams, which had been aired during the past season, had not abated, and prior to the meeting of the Interprovincial Union, the Hamilton Times commented that:

---

<sup>46</sup>Ibid.





All this talk concerning the amateur standing of the Inter-provincial players cannot but injure the sport and unless the governors stamp out the evil now, it will be necessary to outlaw all the players and start anew. The governors realize the fact that if the sport is to remain a strictly amateur one it is impossible to be too strict and we have it on the best of authority that when they next meet, investigations will be instigated that will prove mighty embarrassing for some people and possibly result in their being expelled from the league . . . There is no doubt about it; several players in the Interprovincial are professional.<sup>47</sup>

The Interprovincial League, at its meeting, decided to allow out-of-town referees ten cents a mile for their expenses, while the minimum fee for local officials was set as ten dollars. Contrary to the report from the Hamilton Times, no charges of professionalism were dealt with.

The 1911 season was eagerly anticipated across a greater area of the Dominion than ever before. In the West a new body had been formed; the Western Canada Rugby Football Union came into existence in that year to supervise championship games between the winners of the Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta Unions. The O.R.F.U. prepared to place new teams into the cities of the Interprovincial Union in order to "eliminate the close corporation of the rival body and at the same time help the O.R.F.U. to further the interests of Rugby rather than to increase gate receipts".<sup>48</sup> The University of Toronto team had been presented in March with miniature duplicates of the Earl Grey Cup, and were eagerly anticipating the opportunity to win an unprecedented third successive Dominion Championship. At McGill University the faculty had acceded to the wishes of the students and decided to start classes one hour earlier, at 8 a.m., for the first six weeks of the school term, in order that the football team would have more daylight time in which to practice.<sup>49</sup>

---

<sup>47</sup>Hamilton Times as quoted in the Toronto Globe, December 20, 1910.

<sup>48</sup>Toronto Globe, August 17, 1911. <sup>49</sup>Toronto Globe, February 25, 1911.





Because of the necessity of employment among the players of the city leagues, and the steadily diminishing hours of daylight during the football season, coupled with the desire of these leagues to regain supremacy in the championship series, the use of electric lighting was introduced. In Hamilton, the Tigers, under coach George Ballard, experimented with practice under lights, while in Toronto the T.A.A.C. scheduled an 8 p.m. practice after having installed 12 arc lights on their field.<sup>50</sup>

The season ended, however, with the University of Toronto team easily defeating McGill, Queens, and Ottawa College to win the Intercollegiate title. The Argonauts were victorious in the Interprovincial league and they defeated, by a score of 9-2, the Hamilton Alerts, the upstart winners of the O.R.F.U. Even with former Varsity star Dr. Smirle Lawson in their lineup, the Argos were no match for the collegians, and Varsity, by a score of 14-7, defeated the Argos and became holders of the Earl Grey Cup for the third consecutive year. A record crowd of close to 15,000 spectators was on hand to view the contest and to witness yet another innovation introduced by the University team; Varsity field was not only lined every 10 yards, but also boasted wooden signs placed ten feet from the touchlines, indicating mid-field, the twenty-five yard lines and the goal lines.

In many respects, the 1912 season was a year of change. Harry Griffiths, the Honorary Coach of Varsity, accepted a position at Ridley College; Ottawa College resigned from the Intercollegiate Union in protest over a referee's decision in a game against Queens; the T.R.A.A. and

---

<sup>50</sup>Toronto Globe, September 26, 1911.





the T.A.A.C. teams of the O.R.F.U. amalgamated, leaving a three team league and causing a revision of the schedule; Ottawa, of the Inter-provincial Union, hired an American, "Doc" Galvin, to coach their team, as did McGill of the Intercollegiate League.

McGill's coach was Frank Shaughnessy, a native of Amboy, Illinois, who attended Notre Dame University. Besides playing football, Shaughnessy earned a degree in Pharmacy, continued on to acquire a degree in Law, coached at Clemson University and made his way to Canada in 1912, where he coached the Ottawa entry in the Canadian Baseball League.

Frank Ahearn, who was Shaughnessy's financial backer in Ottawa, induced the latter to coach the McGill team in football. Shaughnessy, who was later to be better known as "Shag", agreed; but only on the condition that he have complete control of the team. To that end, he "stipulated when he took charge of the McGill candidates that the executive should sit in the grand stand while he directed play on the field".<sup>51</sup> Galvin, the Ottawa coach, evidently did not enjoy the same free hand, because ". . . internal dissension spoiled "Doc" Galvin's chances of turning out a winner for Ottawa for this year".<sup>52</sup>

One of Shaughnessy's first acts as McGill's coach appeared to be designed to show everybody associated with the team that he indeed had complete control. He sent a cablegram to Brighton, England, where the star kicker of the McGill team, Eric Billington, had returned for a visit. Billington, a native of Brighton, was due to return to Montreal on October 5th--the same day that McGill was to play Varsity in the

---

<sup>51</sup>Toronto Globe, November 19, 1912.

<sup>52</sup>Ibid.





first game of the new season. Shaughnessy bluntly stated that; "no man will play who is not fit and had practice with the team".<sup>53</sup>

Billington, whose services were sorely needed by the McGill team, returned early and Shaughnessy's authority was established. Undoubtedly, he is the first "professional" coach in the history of Canadian football.

His next act was to establish the "training table" for his players-- a move induced ". . . by a keen desire for victory . . . they all live in the same house, eat the same kind of food, and are expected to have the same kind of habits".<sup>54</sup> Prior to the coming of Shaughnessy, all visiting teams left for their destination the night prior to the game, and in some cases, they left the day of the game. Shaughnessy, for the opening game in Toronto, left Montreal two days before the game in order "to have plenty of time in which to recover from the effects of the journey".<sup>55</sup>

The city league clubs were private organizations, and while their constitutions specified that only members were allowed to participate in club affairs, it appears that some clubs did operate with unwritten restrictions as to who would qualify for membership. A report from Ottawa stated that the Rough Riders were interested in Gordon Simpson, a coloured athlete from Toronto who was playing for the Ottawa intermediate team. The report went on to say that; "Ottawa may waive the

---

<sup>53</sup>Toronto Globe, September 14, 1912.

<sup>54</sup>W.A. Hewitt, "Training a College Football Team". Maclean's Magazine, November 1912, p. 102.

<sup>55</sup>Toronto Globe, October 4, 1912.





colour line and use him because of his speed and punting".<sup>56</sup> Galvin, the Ottawa coach, replied that; ". . . there is no colour line in football. We want football players and Simpson is one of the best we have".<sup>57</sup>

The necessity of "winning" was increasingly in evidence throughout 1912, particularly in the Interprovincial Union, where because of the six game schedule and the lack of playoffs, each game was an important one for teams with championship aspirations. The October 5th game between Ottawa and Hamilton, won by Ottawa on a disputed "Try", almost cost Referee Billy McMaster his life because he declined to overrule the Umpire's decision on the "Try" that virtually assured the Ottawa win. McMaster described the ordeal from the safety of his Montreal home:

As soon as the match was over, businessmen of that city hit me on the back and the head with sticks and shouted "That is the fellow who sold us to Ottawa for five hundred dollars!" Though in some cases they made it a thousand. Ladies pointed their parasols at me, and screamed, "That is the cheat!" and the mob whirled the two policemen who were escorting me off the field aside and started to tear off my clothes, when Burkholder (a former Hamilton player) interposed his great bulk and dragged me along to the back of the stand. Here like a thief or a murderer, I was compelled to creep along until a club cap and a sweater could be found for me to be disguised in, and then I joined the Ottawa team on the Tally-ho. . . They stoned the Ottawa players and followed us for many hundreds of yards. I got half of a brick, which I have at home, on the head, which caused a lump as big as a hen's egg, and poor Kilt of the Rough Riders received from another brick a gash in the face that must have measured between three and four inches. And this mob was not composed of boys only, but of grown up men.<sup>58</sup>

---

<sup>56</sup>Toronto Globe, October 1, 1912.

<sup>57</sup>Toronto Globe, October 4, 1912.

<sup>58</sup>Toronto Globe, October 8, 1912.





Even if the spectators were unruly, there were more of them attending the contests, and in anticipation of a large crowd for a game against Ottawa, the Argonaut management decided to not only sell an additional fifteen hundred reserved standing room tickets at 75¢ each, they also increased the accomodation for motor cars, (a much favoured vantage point for viewing the game) by increasing that section reserved for cars "thirty feet further out toward the playing field . . . two extra rows of motor cars can be accomodated".<sup>59</sup>

The Intercollegiate Union was still very much considered to be the epitome of football, so much so that W.A. Hewitt, the O.R.F.U. representative to the C.R.U., said that, ". . . in the course of time, as the country expands, the city teams will disappear and the college players will furnish the only competition on the gridiron".<sup>60</sup> His reason, steeped in the concept of eternal amateurism, was that "young men just starting in business life cannot get away from their employment at the stated hours of practice and as a consequence the unity of action and perfection of team play absolutely necessary to success in Rugby cannot possibly be obtained".<sup>61</sup> Hewitt went on to say that practice by artificial light was not feasible and cited the fact that, for the three past seasons, the University of Toronto team had defeated the best of the city teams in the championship games.

Unfortunately, there was to be no competition between the University

---

<sup>59</sup>Toronto Globe, November 8, 1912.

<sup>60</sup>Hewitt, op. cit., p. 100.

<sup>61</sup>Ibid., p. 101.





champions and the city leagues in the Grey Cup game of 1912. McGill, after dethroning Varsity by defeating them in a playoff game by a score of 14-3, declined to enter the C.R.U. championship series. In a resolution, drafted and presented "to the faculty, Governors, graduates, undergraduates and supporters of Old McGill", the team stated that:

In view of the fact that our examinations are fast approaching, we do not deem it advisable to prolong further an already lengthened football season, which has cost us considerable sacrifice in respect to our academic work. We trust that our position is appreciated by all.<sup>62</sup>

The Dominion Championship game was left to be played between the Toronto Argonauts of the I.R.F.U. and the O.R.F.U. representatives, the Hamilton Alerts. The Alerts were a team around which controversy seemed to flourish. Hastily organized in 1911, they won the Dominion Championship in 1912 by defeating the Argos 11-4, only to be "dropped from the list of membership in the Ontario Union . . . the O.R.F.U. had its dignity to preserve . . . the Alerts had been worse than insolent in their attitude to the Union."<sup>63</sup> (Actually, the original motion called for expulsion but this was later amended to read "drop" because expulsion would mean that the club would be unable to engage in other games under the supervision of the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada).<sup>64</sup> It was a year of championships for Hamilton. That city's representatives won Dominion Championships in the Senior, Intermediate, and Junior divisions of football.

---

<sup>62</sup>Toronto Globe, November 19, 1912.

<sup>63</sup>Toronto Globe, December 10, 1912.

<sup>64</sup>Ibid.





As the year ended, the Quebec Rugby Union, which never recovered its once strong position in football, introduced a motion to the C.R.U. calling for three rule changes. It suggested that teams should be reduced from fourteen to twelve men; that the ball should be put into play by having the centre man snap it back; that the three yard protection rule should be abolished and replaced with a fair catch.<sup>65</sup> However, it was "moved by H.C. Griffiths and seconded by Joseph Wright that the amendments as proposed by the Quebec Union be rejected (carried)".<sup>66</sup> The C.R.U., instead, decided that "Messrs. H.C. Griffiths, W.A. Hewitt, and Dr. Fairbanks be appointed a committee to revise the rules without altering their meaning and eliminate anything of an ambiguous or unnecessary character".<sup>67</sup>

If the C.R.U. were satisfied with the rules, there was a suspicion throughout 1913 that the Intercollegiate Union was not, and this feeling was due in large part to the tactics of Shaughnessy's McGill team. In 1912, "the first time I saw this Canadian game of ours the defence was lined up in one straight line against the opposing side with three half backs spread out across the field, about forty yards in the rear".<sup>68</sup> Because of this lack of defenders in the area immediately behind the line, Shaughnessy stated, a "plunger" once he broke through the first line of resistance, could gain valuable yardage

---

<sup>65</sup>Toronto Globe, December 10, 1912.

<sup>66</sup>Minutes of C.R.U. Annual Meeting, January 11, 1913.

<sup>67</sup>Ibid.

<sup>68</sup>Frank Shaughnessy, "Coaching and Canadian Rugby". Maclean's Magazine, November 1, 1924.





for his team. Shaughnessy simply placed a man a few yards behind the defensive wing-line, and since no interference was allowed, the opposition was usually held to a small gain.

More than this however, Shaughnessy's ability to discover ways of circumventing the letter of the rules continuously brought charges of interference and "American tactics" from the opposition. The rules allowed no interference, but there was no provision for maintaining the offensive wing-line on the line of scrimmage. McGill's wing-line would assume a position from three to five yards behind the line of scrimmage and, prior to the heeling of the ball, ran to their normal positions on the wing-line. The wing-line might also all line up on one side of the three man scrimmage so as to "out-flank" the defensive team. The whole effect was usually one of confusion; up to ten men might be moving in the same or opposite directions and the resultant gain was usually a long one. This style of play was so radically different from the conventional systems otherwise in use that in the final analysis the Intercollegiate Union decided to legalize interference in 1914.

McGill successfully defended its Intercollegiate title in 1913 and to the consternation of the other unions, withdrew from the Championship series once more. The Hamilton Tigers, who earlier in the year had made a successful tour of the West, and were strengthened by many of the 1912 Alerts team, had little trouble in defeating the Toronto Parkdales in Hamilton, before a disappointingly small crowd of 4000 spectators. The score was 44-2.

The Quebec Union again advanced the previously proposed rule changes at the 1914 C.R.U. meeting, and again they were defeated.

for the time. The important thing about this is that it is a very good example of the way in which the mind can be trained to think in a certain way.

Another way of looking at it is to say that it is a very good example of the way in which the mind can be trained to think in a certain way.

There are two main points to be made here. The first is that it is a very good example of the way in which the mind can be trained to think in a certain way.

The second point is that it is a very good example of the way in which the mind can be trained to think in a certain way.

Of course, there are many other things that can be said about this, but for the purpose of this discussion, the two points mentioned above are sufficient.

There is also a very good example of the way in which the mind can be trained to think in a certain way.

The third point is that it is a very good example of the way in which the mind can be trained to think in a certain way.

There is also a very good example of the way in which the mind can be trained to think in a certain way.

There is also a very good example of the way in which the mind can be trained to think in a certain way.

There is also a very good example of the way in which the mind can be trained to think in a certain way.

There is also a very good example of the way in which the mind can be trained to think in a certain way.

There is also a very good example of the way in which the mind can be trained to think in a certain way.

There is also a very good example of the way in which the mind can be trained to think in a certain way.

There is also a very good example of the way in which the mind can be trained to think in a certain way.

There is also a very good example of the way in which the mind can be trained to think in a certain way.

There is also a very good example of the way in which the mind can be trained to think in a certain way.

There is also a very good example of the way in which the mind can be trained to think in a certain way.

There is also a very good example of the way in which the mind can be trained to think in a certain way.

There is also a very good example of the way in which the mind can be trained to think in a certain way.

There is also a very good example of the way in which the mind can be trained to think in a certain way.

There is also a very good example of the way in which the mind can be trained to think in a certain way.

There is also a very good example of the way in which the mind can be trained to think in a certain way.

There is also a very good example of the way in which the mind can be trained to think in a certain way.

There is also a very good example of the way in which the mind can be trained to think in a certain way.

There is also a very good example of the way in which the mind can be trained to think in a certain way.

There is also a very good example of the way in which the mind can be trained to think in a certain way.



The Rules Commission, which was formed at the previous annual meeting, suggested three changes:

1. Loss of 10 yards instead of loss of the ball for offside interference by the side in possession.
2. The ball to be brought out to the 40 yard line after a goal from the field and kicked off by the side scored upon.
3. Appointment of a head linesman to be stationed on the sidelines . . . to be utilized by the referee in regard to the proper enforcement of the rules.<sup>69</sup>

Rather than adopt these changes, the C.R.U. decided to allow the various Unions to look them over and report their intentions at the 1915 meeting.

The Intercollegiate Union, which was most seriously affected by the question of interference because of the McGill tactics, chose to deal with the problem immediately. Interference was to be allowed for the 1914 season in the Intercollegiate Union; the maximum allowable distance was to be three yards. The decision was made with full knowledge of the fact that the Intercollegiate winner would have to play without this interference in the Dominion Championship series.

Preparations for the 1914 season were well under way, when, on August 19th, the Canadian Parliament, meeting in a special session, formally committed Canada to an active participation in what was later to be called "the war to end all wars". The city league teams were almost immediately bereft of many of their players:

The Toronto Argonauts . . . minus the services of Bill Jarvis and Harry Symmons, quarterbacks, both of whom are officers in the governor general's body guards, Art Muir and Alex Sinclair, wing men who will go with the 48th Highlanders, Alex Macfarlane who enlisted from the 91st Highlanders from Hamilton and Ross Binkley . . .<sup>70</sup>

---

<sup>69</sup>Minutes of the C.R.U. Annual Meeting, January 10, 1914.

<sup>70</sup>Toronto Globe, August 25, 1914.





Ottawa Rough Riders had lost half their team and the ensuing search for players in Hamilton caused the Dundas Star to write: "The Overland Car loaded with Tiger scouts is almost a nightly happening at the park. Of course, they raise footballers in Hamilton as well as here. We wonder what the pay roll is this year".<sup>71</sup>

Prior to the start of the season, the Toronto Argos played an exhibition game against a combined team from the University of Toronto, Toronto Rowing and Athletic Association, and St. Michael's College, and the proceeds of \$248.00 were forwarded to the Belgian Relief Fund.

McGill was again defeating all opposition in the Intercollegiate Union in the opening weeks of the season. It appeared that the other teams were having their problems trying to master the new interference regulation. By early November, when almost all observers had conceded victory to McGill, it appeared that the Dominion Championship would again be played without an Intercollegiate representative. From McGill came the following announcement:

. . . the club wishes to have as little to do with the Interprovincial Union as possible. In addition to the difference in playing rules, the players of the Big Four have not always been free from the taint of professionalism and naturally the University players do not want to run the risk of being held up by the C.A.A.U. for playing against professionals.<sup>72</sup>

McGill's fears were unfounded, however, as Varsity forced a playoff with the McGill team, and after enlisting the "services of Mr. Brownlee, one of the demonstrators at the School of Science . . . a former captain of the Nebraska University . . . familiar with

---

<sup>71</sup>Dundas Star, as quoted in the Toronto Globe, October 10, 1914.

<sup>72</sup>McGill Daily News, as quoted in the Toronto Globe, November 6, 1914.





interference plays",<sup>73</sup> defeated the McGill team 17-13, to win the Intercollegiate championship.

A tie also resulted in the Big Four between Toronto and Hamilton, and in the play-off the Argos defeated the Tigers by the score of 11-4.

But the football news of 1914 revolved around the normally staid Ontario Rugby Football Union. In early November, the T.R.A.A. protested to the O.R.F.U. that Ken Williams of the Ottawa Saint Pats had not abided by the residence rule, and therefore, the results of the two games played between those two teams should not count, leaving the T.R.A.A. tied with the Hamilton Rowing Club for the leadership of the Union. The T.R.A.A. further charged that Busch of Ottawa was a professional wrestler. The protest was thrown out; but the T.R.A.A. produced three affidavits that Busch was indeed a professional wrestler. Busch countered with his own affidavit that stated "he never received money for wrestling or wrestled against a pro".<sup>74</sup> Ottawa then countered that "Vivian of T.R.A.A. was playing under an assumed name".<sup>75</sup> The A.A.U. of C. stepped into the verbal clash and produced a witness who testified that Busch was indeed a pro wrestler "who wrestled repeatedly for \$2.00 an appearance in the fall of last year at the Central Fair in Ottawa".<sup>76</sup> The St. Pats, not to be outdone, produced their evidence that "Vivian is an English pro named Hiam who played with Salford, a professional team in the Northern Union League".<sup>77</sup> The T.R.A.A. admitted

---

<sup>73</sup>Toronto Globe, November 16, 1914.

<sup>74</sup>Toronto Globe, November 19, 1914.

<sup>75</sup>Ibid.

<sup>76</sup>Toronto Globe, November 20, 1914.

<sup>77</sup>Ibid.





"his name is Hiam but it was his brother who played in England".<sup>78</sup>

The decision was delayed until the championship series was ready to start and, when given, the decision went against the T.R.A.A. On Wednesday, December 2, the Argos were to meet the Hamilton Rowing Club for the right to meet Varsity in the final game; but on Monday November 30, the T.R.A.A., angered at the unfavorable decision, made an application "for an injunction to restrain the O.R.F.U., President MacGillivray, Secretary Gall, The Hamilton Rowing Club and Argos from playing the two teams named".<sup>79</sup> The injunction was denied by Osgoode Hall because it reasoned that the courts were not for affairs of sport.

The Argos defeated the Hamilton Rowing Club 16-14, and on the following Saturday, the University of Toronto team, minus its interference, was defeated 14-2. The Argonauts had won the Dominion Championship, and, for the first time, the Grey Cup.

#### 1915 - 1919

The war years saw Canada more deeply involved in military affairs than at any other time in her young history. The playing of Senior football, as a result, was increasingly de-emphasized as the war progressed.

In 1915, the Intercollegiate Union suspended operations for the duration of the war. The O.R.F.U. operated as a two team league, while the Interprovincial Union continued to operate with its original

---

<sup>78</sup>Ibid.

<sup>79</sup>Toronto Globe, December 1, 1914.





four members. There was no doubt that the war had its effect on the calibre of play, as evidenced by the following statement: " . . . owing to the decreased interest taken in football during the past year by the public, the past season has not lived up to the records of the past few years".<sup>80</sup>

A tragedy was recorded in 1915, with the death of Glad Murphy. A player with the Toronto Argos, Murphy broke his neck on October 9, in a game with the Hamilton Tigers, and as a result, subsequently died from the injury.

The Hamilton Tigers emerged as winners of the "Big Four", while the T.R.A.A. won the Ontario Union championship. The "Dominion Championship" game, won by the Tigers 13-7, was the last contest for the Grey Cup until 1920.

In 1916, both the Ontario and Interprovincial Unions suspended operations. The playing of football was left to the Armed Forces personnel; teams from the 207th, 205th, 180th and 244th battalions from Ottawa, Hamilton, Toronto and Montreal respectively, competed according to the Intercollegiate rules, with the competition being "open to all in khaki, whether amateur or pro".<sup>81</sup>

In 1917, American football was played at Varsity Field in Toronto. The game, sponsored by the Sportsmen's Patriotic Association, was played between the United States Naval Reserve--described as the Aviator Section at Camp Borden--and the All-Syracuse Team, champions of New York State.

---

<sup>80</sup>Minutes of the C.R.U. Annual Meeting, January 7, 1916.

<sup>81</sup>Toronto Globe, September 25, 1916.





The game, played at 3 p.m. on a Monday afternoon, attracted 2500 spectators.

With the end of the war on November 11, 1918, the various Unions began to formulate plans for the 1919 season. The O.R.F.U. was first to announce its plans and, in so doing, announced a number of changes that would apply for the 1919 season. Chief among these changes was the provision that a ball recovered by the opposition behind the goal line, as a result of a fumble by the opponents, would score 3 points, instead of 5, and the right of conversion would be waived.<sup>82</sup>

The Intercollegiate Union signified its intention to renew football competition shortly thereafter, by announcing that "no student can represent his University on any team, in any line of sport, until a certificate of his eligibility has been filed with the Union".<sup>83</sup> Each university was invited to delegate three representatives, one from the faculty and two students, to be the governing body of Inter-collegiate sport. Among the University of Toronto representatives was a fourth year student from Victoria College--Lester Bowles Pearson.

The Interprovincial Union, at its meeting in Montreal on July 25, 1919, announced that the rule prohibiting "offside interference" would be eliminated, as would the three yard protection area, which was given to a player making a "fair catch". "These changes were made with a view to bringing about more uniformity in the playing codes of

---

<sup>82</sup>Toronto Globe, December 16, 1918.

<sup>83</sup>Toronto Globe, December 19, 1918.





the Interprovincial and Intercollegiate Unions."<sup>84</sup> The recurring problems of having each Union playing under a different set of rules, was very much in evidence, and it was "hoped in time, to establish playing rules embodying the best offered by the Unions. When the rules have been standardized, there will, it is expected, be better football in the finals and the semi-finals of the Dominion Championship."<sup>85</sup>

The transition, however, from the war-time era to the post-war revival, was not an easy one. In the O.R.F.U., three teams from Toronto signified their intention to enter the senior series. The major problem facing the O.R.F.U. seemed to be that of finding enough playing fields in Toronto. In Montreal, Bill Hughes, a graduate of McGill who played under Shaughnessy, was hired by the "Winged Wheelers" and promptly stated that he "was of the opinion that practices by electric light are of little use and he has advised the executive, to hold afternoon workouts and serve dinner to the players afterwards, each night after practice."<sup>86</sup>

As the season progressed, it seemed quite obvious that McGill was again a superior team. The style of play, directed by Shaughnessy continued to evoke both criticism and acclaim for Shaughnessy and his contributions to Canadian football.

Without entering into the question of the legality or illegality of the kind of football played by the McGill University teams, the fact must be admitted, that the methods employed by coach Shaughnessy of the Red and White, have brought about a discussion of the rules, which sheds a fierce light on their impotence and ambiguities. The possibilities of the game have been demonstrated

---

<sup>84</sup>Toronto Globe, July 28, 1919.

<sup>85</sup>Ibid.

<sup>86</sup>Toronto Globe, August 25, 1919.





in a manner, hitherto thought impossible. If Shaughnessy has played fast and loose with the rules, as is contended by some of his critics, he should be checked up now. If on the other hand, new plays have been evolved within the rules, they are a tribute to Shaughnessy and should be a lesson to players and coaches. The delicate suggestion, that Shag should be forced to see eye to eye with other coaches or be compelled to relinquish his position at McGill, is utterly ridiculous.<sup>87</sup>

The 1919 season ended in a wave of frustration for those who wanted a series to decide the Dominion Championship. The M.A.A.A. team, winners of the Interprovincial Union, declined to compete in the series, because the players "thought that a Dominion title series, without McGill in a championship game, is a name only and a game with the T.R.A.A. fourteen, would be unsatisfactory to everyone concerned".<sup>88</sup> McGill, winners of the Intercollegiate Union by virtue of a 21-1 victory over Varsity, again declined to participate in the championship series. The Toronto Globe echoed the frustration which was prevalent among football followers, when it editorialized that:

There will, shortly, be showdowns in the Intercollegiate and Canadian Football Unions. Under existing conditions it is plain that McGill and Shaughnessy will dominate the college series. In the Canadian Union, some action will have to be taken, in the matter of national finals. From Queens and University of Toronto, have come very decided objections to McGill's methods. Shaughnessy has done nothing not permitted by the rules. The interference bugaboo was thoroughly threshed out before the season opened. The difficulty seems to be, that the game played by the Montreal University is too highly specialized to suit the others. Unquestionably, the game has been improved by the astute Montreal coach and the whole matter, apparently, resolves itself in the question of the employment of professional gridiron tutors. Alumni coaches and the teams that they handle, are at a disadvantage against a professionally coached team. The Canadian Union should deal at once with the matter of national finals . . . The

---

<sup>87</sup> Toronto Globe, November 17, 1919.

<sup>88</sup> Toronto Globe, November 17, 1919.





various Unions should be called upon to send their champions into the national finals, or the latter abandoned. The haphazard methods, that apply to Canadian football, should be put aside now.<sup>89</sup>

The T.R.A.A. winners of the O.R.F.U., when confronted with the situation, invited the University of Toronto team to play a match. This was declined by the University. Argonauts were asked to play a game to decide the city championship. They too declined. The season of 1919, therefore, ended with a winner in each Union, and no Dominion Champion.

#### 1920 - 1924

In the season of 1920, the question of rules seemed to be uppermost in the minds of football followers. The Intercollegiate Union had increased the legal interference area to four yards--a step which surprised most football observers. The Interprovincial Union, in yet another unanticipated move, decided to adopt the Intercollegiate rules. "It's not a case of following the leader", said president Dixon of the I.R.F.U., "It was simply a case of recognizing the best rules".<sup>90</sup> The situation was all too reminiscent of earlier times. The C.R.U. had its set of rules and the O.R.F.U. another, while the Intercollegiate and Interprovincial Unions decided to play by yet another set of rules.

If the situation were confusing to the public, it was even more confusing to the players. Because of the constant changes, "not more than fifty per cent of the players", stated Bill Hoare, a

---

<sup>89</sup>Toronto Globe, October 30, 1920.

<sup>90</sup>Toronto Globe, September 6, 1920.





player about to retire from active participation with the T.R.A.A., "really know the rules under which they are playing."<sup>91</sup>

With the introduction of interference, the infraction of "holding" became prevalent and there was much agitation to do away with the "massed plays" and introduce further rule changes which would "encourage the use of the lateral pass, the spectacular extended run, and an attack which results in affording the spectators and opposing players an occasional peep at the ball."<sup>92</sup>

By the beginning of November, dissatisfaction with the new regulations was evident in the "Big Four". Hamilton, Ottawa, and Montreal favored a return to the previous year's rules. Toronto, which was enjoying its first place standing in the league, stated that it was quite satisfied with the rules as they presently were. The dissatisfaction was also evident in the Intercollegiate Union and there, too, a demand for a change was much in evidence. The opponents seemed to be drawn into two camps; those who wanted to maintain the "traditional" game, and those who wanted a radical break with the past. While the desire for uniformity of rules was considered desirable in all quarters, it was also evident that "certainly uniform rules are desirable, but there is a question of the wisdom of adopting the antiquated code for the purpose alone of securing uniformity".<sup>93</sup> Rather than return to a set of regulations which in the past proved lacking, "why is it not possible", the Globe asked, "to improve the rules and still have uniformity? What is the matter with the Solons

---

<sup>91</sup>Toronto Globe, September 22, 1920.

<sup>92</sup>Toronto Globe, October 30, 1920.

<sup>93</sup>Toronto Globe, November 3, 1920.





of Canadian football? Are they loathe to co-operate, or are they afraid to tackle a man-sized job?"<sup>94</sup>

By November 11th, it appeared that there would, again, be no Dominion championship series. The Argonauts, winners of the Inter-provincial Union, and the Toronto Rugby Club, winners of the O.R.F.U., were to meet each other in a semi-final game for the right to meet the Intercollegiate champions. Aside from the complications in the rules, there was another major obstacle to overcome. The Toronto Rugby Club, which was known in the press as the "Torontos", had two students, Pearlman and Shatz, in their lineup. Both had played with the University of Toronto team in 1919, and each was eligible to play in the Intercollegiate Union in 1920. It was an Intercollegiate regulation that all students of a university had to receive the permission of the athletic directorate of their university before they could play in another league. The problem was that neither Pearlman nor Shatz had been given this permission.

The Argonauts, while they wanted to participate in the finals, did not want to antagonize the University officials. The "Torontos" wanted to use the two players, but if they did use them and defeated the Argos, it was highly unlikely that the University of Toronto would consent to meet them in a title game.

The situation was resolved when the Intercollegiate Union notified the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada (A.A.U. of C.) that Pearlman and Shatz had contravened University Union regulations.

---

<sup>94</sup>Ibid.





The result of this action was that:

The A.A.U. of C. was forced to suspend the pair because of a clause in the C.I.A.U. and A.A.U. of C. alliance, which was adopted on March 31, 1911. Section five of that alliance reads: no student, eligible to compete in any Intercollegiate contest, shall represent a non college club or organization during the college term, unless liberated by the members of the C.I.A.U. concerned. Violation of this rule, renders the offender liable to suspension, not only by the C.I.A.U., but also by the A.A.U. of C.<sup>95</sup>

After the announcement that the rules of the Interprovincial Union would prevail in the semi-final series between the Argonauts and the Toronto Rugby Club, the two teams met on November 20th, and the Argonauts were victorious by the score of 7-6. However, in keeping with the confused state of affairs of 1920, the "Torontos" protested the game. They declared that the referee, Hughie Gall, erred in declaring that a try scored by the Toronto Rugby Club was "unearned". The decision, by Gall, awarded the "Torontos" 3 points instead of the 5 points which would have made the O.R.F.U. team victorious.

The protest was referred to the C.R.U., placing the Union in a very awkward position. Gall, the referee, was also the president of the C.R.U. The executive of that body, therefore, was unable to arrive at a decision and, therefore, it was decided that the decision would be made by three past presidents of the C.R.U.--Dr. W.B. Hendry, W.A. Hewitt, and the Reverend A.F. "Biddy" Barr. The three past presidents ruled that the last 25 minutes of the game should be replayed. The Argonauts, who remained very quiet during all these events asked that the last half of the game be replayed, instead of the 25 minutes. This request was met, and the last half was replayed at

---

<sup>95</sup>Toronto Globe, November 13, 1920.





Varsity Field, on November 27th, with "the score, as in the previous game, at 2-0, with the Argos leading and the "Torontos will have the advantage of the wind in the third quarter. The same officials will govern . . . no admission will be charged".<sup>96</sup>

The Argonauts won the extended game, by a score of 5-2. One of the oddities of the game was that the Argonaut lineup included Hamilton "Laddie" Cassels--the coach of the University of Toronto team. Cassels not only played, he starred, and was credited with making ineffective the "Big Train" of the "Torontos"--Lionel Conacher.

In the Grey Cup Game, the University of Toronto team defeated the Toronto Argonauts by a score of 16-3, and, while that appeared to be a foregone conclusion because of Cassels' familiarity with the Argo signals, none of which was changed, Cassels' knowledge apparently was not exploited. The Globe stated: ". . . that the confidence placed in Cassels by the Toronto Argonauts was fully justified, was evident throughout the struggle. Never was there any of the slightest indication that he took advantage of the intimate knowledge of the Argonaut methods to benefit the student team".<sup>97</sup> It was the first Dominion championship game to be played since 1915, and the first one involving a university team since 1914. The game attracted the second largest crowd ever to see a championship game, and the renewed enthusiasm it generated, coupled

---

<sup>96</sup>Toronto Globe, November 24, 1920.

<sup>97</sup>Toronto Globe, December 6, 1920.





with the interest shown by Western Canada to send its representatives to participate in the Dominion championship contests, provided a catalyst for changes in the rules of Canadian football.

At the January 15th, 1921 meeting of the C.R.U., it was announced that a revised constitution for that body would be prepared and a committee would be delegated to revise the playing rules. The composition of the new rules committee was significant. Staunch traditionalists, such as Griffiths and Hewitt, were by-passed by the C.R.U. executive. In their stead were chosen three younger men, all of whom had been active in football in recent years. These men were: Jack Maynard, Dr. Wright, and Robert Isbister. Both committees were to report, with the revisions completed and in the hands of the member Unions, at a special meeting of the C.R.U., to be held March 26, 1921.

Two other significant announcements were made at the C.R.U. meeting: The Earl Grey Cup was to be placed under the trusteeship of the C.R.U. and the Western Canada Rugby Football Union was accepted into membership with the C.R.U. The Western Union also gave notice that it "would send its champions East to play for the Earl Grey Cup".<sup>98</sup>

#### Football In The West Prior To 1921

The Manitoba Union was the first of the western provincial Unions to affiliate with the C.R.U., when it was "elected to

---

<sup>98</sup>Toronto Globe, January 17, 1921.





honorary membership"<sup>99</sup> in 1892. Saskatchewan and Alberta entered Confederation in 1905, and the population of those provinces grew, especially because of the immigration policies of the Laurier government. Many of the new settlers were attracted to the West from Eastern Canada and from the United States and the game of rugby increased in popularity.

In 1911, a new governing body was formed in Western Canada. Called the Western Canada Rugby Football Union, its functions in the West were similar to those of the C.R.U. in the East. The members of the new Union were: The Manitoba Rugby Union, consisting of teams from St. John's College and the Winnipeg Rowing Club; the Saskatchewan Rugby Union, comprising teams from Moose Jaw, Regina, and Saskatoon; the Alberta Rugby Union, composed of teams from Edmonton and Calgary--which had two teams, the "Tigers" and the Y.M.C.A. The Calgary Tigers were the winners of the Union in its first year. They defeated the Winnipeg Rowing Club 13-6, at a game played at Hillhurst Park, Calgary, On Saturday, November 18, 1911. By their victory, the Calgary team also became the first winners of the Hugo Ross Trophy, emblematic of Western supremacy.

The Calgary team requested that the C.R.U. admit the newly crowned western champions to the Dominion championship series of 1911. The request was, however, denied by the C.R.U.--the reason being that the C.R.U. constitution specified that only members who joined that Union at an annual meeting could participate. Since the Western Union had not become a member of the C.R.U. at the annual meeting of

---

<sup>99</sup>Minutes of C.R.U. Annual Meeting, December 19, 1890.





January, 1911, its application had to be denied.

Subsequently, the Western Canada Union sent a letter to the C.R.U., requesting admittance for the year 1912.

The matter was fully discussed and the following motion was made by Mr. W.A. Hewitt, seconded by Mr. J.G. Coughlan "that in view of the many difficulties in playing final games owing to the great distances that intervene, the application of the W.C.R.U. for admission to the C.R.U. be not entertained, but that the W.C.R.U. be admitted to honorary membership in the C.R.U."--carried unanimously.<sup>100</sup>

At the same annual meeting, it was decided that an application from the Alberta Union for active membership was "covered by the application of the W.C.R.U., of which Union it is a member."<sup>101</sup>

During 1912, the Toronto Globe deemed the interest in football in the west sufficiently important to have a staff correspondent, Norman Lambert, sent west to gather some impressions of the football played in the West. Lambert reported that

. . . the players, as well as the officials in the game, are men who have seen service on the very best teams in the east. They have lost none of their cunning or enthusiasm through migrating to the West.<sup>102</sup>

Name after name, in each team in the member Unions, was associated with a city league or a university in the East. Lambert concluded that "the West is the East writ large".<sup>103</sup>

Lambert noted, as well, that a great number of the players were Americans. Edmonton was coached by an American, Deacon White, from Northwestern University, and the team had three Americans on its roster; Cullem from Michigan, Van Horn from Pennsylvania, and

---

<sup>100</sup> Minutes of the C.R.U. Annual Meeting, January 13, 1912.

<sup>101</sup> Ibid.

<sup>102</sup> Norman Lambert, Article in the Toronto Globe, October 5, 1912.

<sup>103</sup> Ibid.





Dugal from Minnesota. Saskatoon's Americans were: McCormack from Princeton, Dan Smith from Minnesota, and Stewart from Dartmouth. Regina had Fred Ritter and Townsend, both of whom were from Princeton University.

After his survey, Lambert was sufficiently impressed with the calibre of Western football to conclude that:

It is well to remember that the West has made fairly good headway in nearly every other line of sport, to wit--hockey, lacrosse and rowing. It is not at all inconceivable that some day the West, if it gets the chance it is asking for, may duplicate in Rugby football the triumphs that it has had recently in these other forms of athletics.<sup>104</sup>

Farther West, in British Columbia, Vancouver had two teams "playing the Canadian game and as there are a number of former eastern players residing in Victoria, a team may be formed . . . Victoria may have their first taste of Canadian football this year".<sup>105</sup>

As the game progressed in the West, a dissatisfaction with the rules became apparent. They were described by the Reverend Robert "Bob" Pearson, president of the Alberta Union, as having been in the past "a large percentage tradition . . . a person who was not familiar with the game would get a very hazy idea of it, if he attempted to gain his information from the rules which were called 'official'".<sup>106</sup> Pearson, who played inside wing on the Queen's Intercollegiate championship team of 1904, was obviously impressed by the "Burnside rules" which were in vogue in the Ontario Union during his college days. He revised the Alberta Union rules,

---

<sup>104</sup>Ibid.

<sup>105</sup>Toronto Globe, September 28, 1912.

<sup>106</sup>Toronto Globe, October 9, 1914.





primarily because of the varied interpretations given them by the various officials--a state of affairs which was very much in evidence during the Hamilton Tigers' visit to Alberta, in 1913. Pearson's revised set of rules eliminated the two side scrimmagers, made it legal to snap the ball with the hand or heel it back with the foot, restricted the game to teams of twelve players and required seven men to be on the line of scrimmage "at the moment the ball is put into play".<sup>107</sup>

The Regina Roughrider team was supreme in the West during the period from 1912-1920. Exclusive of the period from 1916-1918, when football was not played in the West, the "Roughriders" won the Western Canada Union championship each year, from 1912-1920, inclusive. During that time, the team lost only two games of the thirty-eight that they played.

During the 1919 season, the Alberta Union added a fourth member, the University of Alberta, and the renewed enthusiasm for football in Alberta was indicative of the renewed interest throughout the post-war West. The Alberta Union rules, which were not universally played throughout the West, finally were agreed to by the other Western member Unions in late 1920, with their implementation to take place for the 1921 playing season.

All the Alberta regulations were accepted, 'with the exception that the quarterback, will be unable to pass the line of scrimmage without having some other player touch the ball. This was one of the regulations used in Alberta this year but it was decided to

---

<sup>107</sup>Ibid.





eliminate it for the coming season".<sup>108</sup>

The West had indicated its preference for a game which it hoped would allow for more consistency, both in performance and in the interpretation of the rules. The East was soon to follow.

The rules committee, which had been appointed by the C.R.U. to revise the rules, was not ready to report on the previously specified date. However, at a meeting held in the office of the Ontario Athletic Commission, on Saturday, April 23, 1921, the committee made its proposals, which were accepted. The new regulations were very similar to those already adopted by the West.

The main points were as follows:

1. Twelve men a side.
2. Snap back instead of scrimmage.
3. Quarterback may carry ball beyond line of scrimmage.
4. At least five men of the attacking team on line of scrimmage when ball is put into play.
5. Substitutes allowed at any time, and no more than 18 players of one team shall take part in any one game.
6. Only ten men allowed on a "buck" until play is through line of scrimmage.
7. Unearned try abolished. Scoring same as before: 5 for a try, 1 for a convert, rouge, or touch in goal, and 2 for a safety touch.<sup>109</sup>

The C.R.U. seemed determined to ensure that uniformity in the playing rules prevailed. Five bulletins, each of which dealt with one section of the rules and their interpretations, were sent to each of the member Unions, both in the East and in the West. The Hamilton Tigers were sent on a Western tour for the second time, for the purpose of acquainting the Westerners with the Eastern style of play.

---

<sup>108</sup>Toronto Globe, November 9, 1920.

<sup>109</sup>Toronto Globe, April 25, 1921.





The tour was a resounding success and everywhere that the Hamilton team played their visit was eagerly anticipated. The Edmonton Bulletin was particularly ecstatic when it stated:

The fact that they are coming shows that Edmonton is getting to be a centre of importance, big enough to attract the best in anything. Four thousand people should be at that game on Thursday. Think of it, a game of rugby against the best team in Canada, that has travelled three thousand miles! Rugby is the great game in the east and in the United States in the fall. It draws bigger crowds than any other game played. It is a game that cannot be played everyday--too strenuous. It compares favorably with the old gladiatorial combats in the Flavian Amphitheatre in Rome. A rugby fan in a rugby country is lucky if he sees four of five big contests in one season. The best that one can see in Edmonton will be three more games after the Hamilton one.<sup>110</sup>

As the 1921 season opened, there were still misgivings about the drastic changes made in the football rules. Some of the Argonaut players were of the opinion that it seemed "to be a case of everything to make the offence powerful and no provision made for the defence".<sup>111</sup> The general consensus seemed to be, however, that the new rules should be given a fair chance.

If there were some expectations that the game would be drastically modified in style, those beliefs were not fulfilled in 1921. The snapback system allowed for better execution of plays, but the teams used, basically, the same style of play as they had previously. The main advantage of the snapback was that it allowed for a much more reliable and more efficient manner of putting the ball into play. "The direct snap made for very fast break-away end runs, with the

---

<sup>110</sup> Edmonton Bulletin, September 20, 1921.

<sup>111</sup> Toronto Globe, September 10, 1921.





ball carrier taking the ball at full speed".<sup>112</sup>

The intention of the snapback system, too, was to "free" the quarterback. Previously the quarterback was simply an intermediary between the centre scrimmager who heeled the ball out and the eventual ball carrier. The quarterback had to be primarily an individual who could quickly control a bounding ball, and, because of the rather haphazard method of putting the ball into play, he had to be positioned directly behind the centre. In the new system, he was a potential ball carrier and was generally stationed to one side of the centre, and from 2-5 yards behind the line of scrimmage. Another of his functions, besides carrying the ball, was to "circle behind the ball carriers, on an end run, and if the ball was fumbled he rushed in and dribbled the ball, whereupon the ball game turned into a very exciting soccer match with everybody after the ball".<sup>113</sup>

The statistics from the McGill - Queen's game of November 12, 1921, indicate that the style of play was not greatly changed as a result of the new rules. They also provide an interesting insight into what was considered important enough to merit being kept as a statistic.<sup>114</sup>

	McGill	Queen's
Kicks .....	24	36
Returned kicks.....	7	4
Fumbles in the open field.....	7	1
Number of own open field fumbles recovered .....	2	0

---

<sup>112</sup>Bruce Inksetter, Letter to the writer, December 12, 1968.

<sup>113</sup>Ibid.

<sup>114</sup>Toronto Globe, November 14, 1921.





	McGill	Queen's
Fumbles in scrimmage .....	6	3
Number of own scrimmage fumbles recovered .....	1	2
Drop kicks .....	2	2
Long passes .....	0	0
Times yards gained .....	7	2
Yards lost .....	85	70
Onside kicks .....	4	0
Injuries .....	10	16

McGill University was still the major attraction in the East. Playing at Varsity Stadium on October 29, they attracted a record attendance of 15,603 paid admissions, while losing to Varsity by the score of 16-2.

The Toronto Argonauts were, by far, the best team in the Inter-provincial Union in 1921. The lineup of players boasted two of the finest players of the time--Harry "Red" Batstone and Lionel Conacher. The Argonauts were undefeated in league play and easily won the right to represent the Interprovincial Union in the C.R.U. series. The Argos defeated the University of Toronto team by a score of 20-12, and, on the following Saturday disposed of a strong Toronto Parkdale team, by a 16-8 score. The stage was now set for the first East-West confrontation in Grey Cup competition.

The Edmonton Eskimos, coached by "Deacon" White, were considered to be worthy representatives of the West. They had defeated all their opponents, both in league play and the playoffs. They even managed to defeat a touring English rugby team that year, even though the rules under which the game was played were of the English variety. They had managed to defeat Calgary in one game that year, by the score of 72-0, and by the time the season was over they had been scored upon for a total of 11 points. Like other city teams, Edmonton, too, had its problems regarding practice time, but it was





more pronounced in Edmonton, because darkness fell earlier in that city as the Autumn season shortened. Edmonton, however, had a unique solution to the problem. "They practice by moonlight, with the aid of a phosphorous painted ball, owing to the early evenings, and the fact that the boys cannot get free from work before darkness".<sup>115</sup>

The Western club had other problems as well. The game against the Winnipeg Victorias was to have been played on a Saturday afternoon but "due to a silk train having priority over us, we didn't arrive in Winnipeg until Saturday night and the game was held on Monday afternoon. During the lay-over the team was guests of the Canadian National Railway, and the boys sure took advantage of the privileges and hospitality of the C.N.R."<sup>116</sup>

With the winning of the Western championship, team finances were at a very low ebb and the Edmonton team had to raise the necessary money to travel to Toronto. "Moe" Lieberman, a player with the Edmonton team prior to the 1921 season, and the team manager in 1921, "appeared personally before the Rotary Club of Edmonton to seek funds to finance the trip East".<sup>117</sup> The Rotary Club advanced the football club a loan of \$1800, which the Edmonton team promised to repay out of its share of the receipts of the Grey Cup game and from future gate receipts if necessary. The Westerners

---

<sup>115</sup>Toronto Globe, November 23, 1921.

<sup>116</sup>Moe Lieberman, An Interview with the Writer, May, 1968.

<sup>117</sup>Ibid.





arrived in Toronto one week prior to the game and made a favorable impression in Toronto with their "red and black mackinaw coats".<sup>118</sup> While in Toronto, the Edmonton team was the guest of the Parkdale Canoe Club and it was reported in Edmonton that the team would "battle to the last ditch for victory".<sup>119</sup>

The game was played on December 3, 1921, and for the more than 9,000 spectators, it proved to be an exciting game and a promise of better things to come. The game was won by the Argonauts by a score of 23-0 and was a contrast in styles. The Toronto team, playing with its quarterback to one side of the centre and from 3-5 yards behind the middle wing--which corresponds to the tackle position of 1968--concentrated on extension plays and end runs. Deacon White gave his reaction to the Argonaut style when he stated that

. . . we could not successfully stop their end runs which were a spectacular and marvellous exhibition of skillful passing and handling of the ball. It was the acme of perfection in this art, each man getting rid of the ball at the psychological moment almost uncannily. It is a beautiful style of play to watch and one can well understand the public's interest in rugby here when it is treated to such displays.<sup>120</sup>

The Edmonton style of play was described by Mike Rodden, a former coach with the Toronto Parkdale team and a future coach of the Hamilton Tigers. In effect Rodden, who was not very impressed

---

<sup>118</sup> Edmonton Bulletin, December 1, 1921.

<sup>119</sup> Ibid.

<sup>120</sup> Deacon White, Article in the Edmonton Bulletin, December 5, 1921.





with the "American tactics" of the Edmonton team, described the T-formation, used by each team in the Canadian Football League in 1968, when he described the Edmonton offensive formation of 1921.

Dorman and Fraser, who played back of the Edmonton offensive, stood about five feet behind their line, while the quarterback was almost lost to view, so close was he to Shieman, the big snapback of the Westerners. The quarterback Rankin, had little to do except make a selection of half a dozen plays, all line plunges, and to hand the ball to the attacker.<sup>121</sup>

The Argonauts were happy because of their victory; the Edmonton team was happy because they gave a good account of themselves and the C.R.U. was especially satisfied because of their glowing success after many years of accumulated frustration. The Manitoba Free Press summed up everybody's feelings when it wrote that "the contest was a triumph for uniformity of playing rules, and football will derive inestimable benefit both East and West".<sup>122</sup>

1922 saw the emergence of a new football power and the renewal of the issue of the "professional coach" in Canadian football. Perhaps in anticipation of future success, Queen's constructed and played in a new stadium in 1921--The Richardson Memorial Stadium. But the story of Queen's success had its roots in the Autumn of 1920, when, "at a banquet, given by the victorious McGill Rugby team to the Queen's team whom they had just defeated, Johnny Evans rose and in a reply to a toast to Queen's said: "Gentlemen, some day Queen's will win an Inter-collegiate championship, and I am going to play quarterback on that team".<sup>123</sup>

---

<sup>121</sup>Mike Rodden, Article in the Edmonton Bulletin, December 5, 1922.

<sup>122</sup>Manitoba Free Press, December 5, 1921.

<sup>123</sup>J.A. McKelvey, "A Story of Recent Football At Queen's" Quarterly. January-March 1928, p. 288.





In April of 1921, it was announced that Queen's was intending to hire a "professional coach". Accompanying the announcement was the speculation that Tubman and Baker, two of the best players of the Ottawa Rough Rider team, might be attending Queen's in 1921. Tubman and Baker did not attend, but Frank "Peps" Leadley, a performer with the Hamilton Tigers in 1920, did attend. He was brought to Queen's by the newly appointed coach of the "Presbyterians"--George Awrey from Hamilton. Awrey, because he was also Athletic Director, did not technically fall under the category of "professional coach", but in the minds of the Queen's opponents, the appointment of Awrey as Athletic Director was simply a guise. There were other factors involved in Queen's success as well.

Queen's had a rule whereby they admitted any student over 21 who was ambitious enough to try and further his education. He was enrolled in a preliminary course and if he succeeded, he could continue and graduate. The Athletic Board of Control seized upon this loophole to gather football material from all over the country.<sup>124</sup>

In 1922, Harry Batstone of the Toronto Argonauts, who, because of his outstanding play in the 1921 Grey Cup game was a nationally known footballer, announced that he intended to enroll at Queen's in the fall of 1922. Batstone, it was found out, had not successfully completed his high school technical course and it was assumed by many that Queen's was attempting to "buy" the Intercollegiate championship. Batstone and Leadley, however, did make the most of their opportunity. Batstone graduated in medicine and Leadley earned an engineering degree, while assisting Queen's to 26 consecutive victories against opposition from every college and city league in Canada.

---

<sup>124</sup>Bruce Inksetter, op. cit.





The 1922 season was barely under way when, in the October 7th game between the Toronto Argonauts and the Montreal A.A.A., Alan Arless of the Montreal team fractured his neck while attempting to stop a "massed play". Arless died the same evening and was subsequently buried in his football uniform.<sup>125</sup>

In the weeks that followed the death of Arless, the football public witnessed some unusual occurrences. Queen's began winning football games. Previous to 1922, the other members of the Inter-collegiate Union, McGill and the University of Toronto, took Queen's lightly. "Both teams allowed Queen's the honour of playing against their regular players for one-half of the game and against their substitutes for the remainder".<sup>126</sup>

However, in 1922, charges were hurled at Queen's from Toronto and Montreal that the Queen's team was composed of "ringers".

Speaking at this afternoon's luncheon of the Kiwanis Club, George Awrey, Athletic Director at Queen's University, said he was getting "fed up" and continued: "I want to say that Batstone is a 23 year old lad that has passed through technical school in Toronto, and in only one subject has he fallen short of senior matriculation standing. Before coming here, he was never away from his home for more than a night in his life. That does not look much like a ringer. Eric Thomas is 19 years old and secured his senior matriculation when he was 16, a record which very few have equalled. He is a real student too. Just because he came to Queen's, the Toronto papers made a kick. We have about 50 students from Toronto and about a hundred from Ottawa but these two men are the only ones to whom objection is taken. The whole team is clean and each man is a real athlete."<sup>127</sup>

---

<sup>125</sup>Toronto Globe, October 9, 1922.

<sup>126</sup>J.A. McKelvey, Op. Cit., p. 289.

<sup>127</sup>Toronto Globe, October 17, 1922.





The furore, however, did not subside and one week later, the Principal of Queen's, Dr. R. Bruce Taylor, issued a statement which denied all the allegations surrounding the University. It said that "there have been no pecuniary or material allowances, direct or indirect, made to any man on the grounds of athletics. There has been no such kind of arrangement entered into by the University or by the Athletic Board of Control".<sup>128</sup> The Principal went on to say that a strict investigation had been made into the allegations with the result that there was no foundation whatsoever to the charges. It was further stated that Queen's did not even offer the athletes a training table, something which was offered at both McGill and the University of Toronto.

Prior to the final game of the season, Queen's was undefeated; but two problems developed. An epidemic of carbuncles broke out among the team, most of whom were hospitalized. The appearance of the carbuncles did, however, have its good effect. "The equipment of the senior team had been disappearing, and no one knew where it went until the second team developed carbuncles, too. After that it did not need a Sherlock Holmes to make the inference".<sup>129</sup>

The second problem was more serious. The coach, George Awrey, became ill. Shaughnessy, coach of McGill, suggested that Queen's hire Bill Hughes, coach of the M.A.A.A. of the Interprovincial Union. Hughes arrived too late to be of assistance for the important playoff game with Varsity, and the latter forced a playoff for the

---

<sup>128</sup>Toronto Globe, October 23, 1922.

<sup>129</sup>J.A. McKelvey, Op. Cit., p. 292.





Intercollegiate title by defeating Queen's 24-1. It was the last game that Queen's would lose until November of 1925.

Hughes immediately set about the task of preparing Queen's for the championship game to be played in one week's time, against the same University of Toronto team. McKelvey, a player with Queen's at that time, gives this account of what developed.

His question was, "What price are you willing to pay in self-privation and work to do what you can do at your best in the play-off game?" He outlined a plan, which, as we shall see later, was worthy of an absolutely spartan leader, and did not even urge it on the boys, only asking, "What will you pay?" There were tears in many eyes when he had finished, tears from strong, hard, unemotional young men, and quiet "I'm with you's" came one after the other. That spirit prevailed throughout the week, and no one left the "gang" in thought or person. We slept in the rink, rose at six in the morning--to run miles with little Billy Hughes, the trainer, and then back to the showers and breakfast. After breakfast, a chalk-talk on football and the remainder of the morning to a heavy scrimmage. After lunch a sweet hour off work to rest, and then there was a practice game for the remaining three or four hours of the afternoon. After dinner there was another "chalk-talk" which lasted until nine o'clock, when bed was irresistible. In this way, a whole new system of football, defence, offence, with its plays and signals, and a working system of interference which we never had before, was given and grasped in five days. School was ignored, but other lessons of life-long value were learned.<sup>130</sup>

Hughes' lessons were well learned. The Queen's team defeated the University of Toronto, on the neutral field of Molson Stadium, by a score of 12-6, with Johnny Evans providing the quarterbacking. The Argonauts had won the Interprovincial title and, in a playoff with the Parkdale Canoe Club, winners of the O.R.F.U., won by the score of 20-1. The game between Queen's and Toronto Argonauts was promoted as a personal duel between Conacher and Batstone, but

---

<sup>130</sup>Ibid., p. 293.





perhaps it was Hughes who made the greatest contribution to the Queen's team in that game, by devising a clever piece of strategy.

. . . He ordered Peps to kick to Conacher. He was their strongest man, and we could not see, then, that the man who receives the pass is a greater threat than the original carrier. Conacher was well watched and encouraged to take the play on his shoulders, a strategy which has since become sound football tactics.<sup>131</sup>

The game was attended by 16,367 spectators who saw Queen's defeat the Argonauts 12-11, as a result of a field goal, late in the game, by Leadley. The Grey Cup came, between Queen's and Edmonton, the latter known in 1922 as the Elks, was anticlimatic for the Queen's followers. Played in Kingston on December 2, before fewer than 5,000 spectators, Queen's defeated Edmonton by a 13-1 score and won the first of their three consecutive Grey Cups.

The surplus of university talent became even more evident in 1923, when the University of Toronto, for the second consecutive year, entered a team in the O.R.F.U. Officially known as the Seconds, they soon acquired the name, "Orfun", and this stayed with them for the duration of their existence. The normal university eligibility rules were waived and the team had the same restrictions imposed upon them as did the city league teams.

The rules were again in a period of consolidation and while there were some changes made in them, they were made for the purpose of clarification. However, in 1923, because of the increasing roughness of play, thought by many to be a by-product of the interference rule, the C.R.U. passed a regulation in an attempt to curb

---

<sup>131</sup>Ibid., p. 294.





the roughness of play. During 1922, the rule for rough play allowed the referee to remove the offender from the game for not less than three minutes. If the offence were extremely serious, the offender could be reported to the executive of his Union for appropriate action. The rule was strengthened in 1923. It stated:

If a player makes any apparently intentional unfair or rough play, such as fighting, deliberately charging a player after he has kicked a ball, piling on and using his knees on a player who is fairly held, deliberate tripping or using profane, offensive or threatening language to the officials or other players, the referee, after such time as he deems expedient, but not less than ten minutes, may allow a substitute to take the place of the penalized player.<sup>132</sup>

The game however, was becoming increasingly more difficult to referee and much of the difficulty stemmed from the interference rule. Since the beginning of the 1921 season, the field was marked with lines five yards apart, parallel to the goal line. The interference could only be used on a play from scrumage and in no case could a man, who did not have the ball on a running play, be ahead of the ball carrier and three yards past the line of scrumage. The problem for the referee existed whenever he had to make a judgement as to whether the interference was taking place beyond the restrictions or not. In effect, because of the field markings every five yards supplying the only objective guide, the referees in many cases allowed the interference to continue up to five yards. A favorite defensive play was to allow the interferer to make contact on the line of scrumage, give a ground and offer no resistance for 3-5 yards and shout "foul" hoping to attract the attention of the referee.

---

<sup>132</sup>Official Playing Rules of the Canadian Rugby Union, 1923, p. 27.





During the 1923 season, the Queen's team continued its winning ways. Huge crowds were attracted throughout the Intercollegiate Union, but because of the larger stadia in Toronto and Montreal, Queen's found that although it was winning football games, its receipts were much smaller than those of McGill and Varsity. In the Intercollegiate, as with the other leagues, a team kept its own gate receipts. Queen's therefore, began to agitate for the rights of the visiting team to receive one-third of the receipts, in all league games.

1923 was also the year that Lionel Conacher left Canada to attend Belafonte Academy in the United States, to play football and hockey at that institution. Conacher left under circumstances befitting an athlete of his calibre. He was "presented with a handsome club bag from the city of Toronto at Hampden Park. Mayor McGuire made the presentation. The Hillcrest Baseball Club presented Conacher with a beautiful floral horse-shoe, which they draped around Conacher's shoulders".<sup>133</sup>

In November, Conacher returned to Toronto for a visit, only to become embroiled in a dispute. It occurred during the O.R.F.U. championship game, played November 12, 1923, between the Parkdale Canoe Club and the Hamilton Rowing Club. Parkdale had stated before the game and over Hamilton's objections that they would use Conacher in the game. That statement did not appear to be welcomed by the members of the Parkdale team either. The feeling of the Parkdale players, especially Breen and Brophy, was that the team should win or lose the game without Conacher, and play only with those who had been with the team throughout the season.

---

<sup>133</sup>Toronto Globe, September 11, 1923.





With eleven minutes to go in the game, and the score tied, 2-2, Conacher was sent into the game. Joe Breen, Parkdale's best player, immediately ran off the field and declined to continue if Conacher played. Word was then sent to Conacher to come off the field. Breen "ran out and shook hands with the former Argonaut backfield star. It was not a personal affair".<sup>134</sup> After a few minutes had elapsed, Breen was injured and had to leave the game and Reed, the Parkdale coach, sent Conacher back into the game. "Reg Degruchy (the referee) gave Parkdale half a minute to take Conacher off the field and when the paddlers refused, he awarded the game to the oarsmen".<sup>135</sup> The O.R.F.U. executive, in a meeting that night, upheld DeGruchy's decision and the game was awarded to Hamilton.

The Hamilton Rowing Club was defeated by the Hamilton Tigers by the score of 24-1, who in turn were defeated by Queen's, 13-5. It was unfortunate that the West and their representatives had to meet the strong Queen's team in 1923. Queen's had little trouble in defeating the Regina team by the one-sided score of 54-0, to win its second Grey Cup victory.

In 1924, Bill Hughes, of Queen's introduced the use of films as a coaching technique. It was called "the slow motion picture code of coaching",<sup>136</sup> and it consisted of "plays made correctly and plays made incorrectly so as to show the players the mistakes of others and thus derive benefit from them".<sup>137</sup> The Queen's players must have learned their lessons well, for, during 1924, they won each game that they played.

---

<sup>134</sup>Toronto Globe, November 13, 1923. <sup>135</sup>Ibid.

<sup>136</sup>Toronto Globe, August 13, 1924. <sup>137</sup>Ibid.





Hamilton Tigers were victorious in the Interprovincial league, under the coaching of George Awrey. The interference rule was still not being used to its maximum benefit because most of the coaches' experience was based on the pre-1921 game, which allowed no interference. Prior to the game between Hamilton and Toronto for the Interprovincial title, the Tigers brought in George Hughitt, a former member of the University of Michigan team, who was at that time residing in Buffalo, New York. His instructions were to teach "the Awreyites how a ball should be carried, and just how interference should be made and stopped. He also taught Hamilton how to get their plays into operation much faster".<sup>138</sup>

Hamilton defeated Toronto, and on the following Saturday were to play Queen's in Kingston. The prospect of a game which had so much appeal to football followers, being played within the confines of Queen's stadium, with its limited seating capacity, convinced the Queen's officials that it would be better for all concerned if the game were played at Varsity Stadium, in Toronto. The game, won by Queen's 11-1, attracted the enormous crowd of 17,000 spectators, who paid a total "minus war-tax, of \$17,483.00. After expenses were deducted, and \$1500.00 additional given to Queen's as per arrangement with Hamilton, the rival clubs each received \$5,750.00 Queen's total share was \$7,250.00".<sup>139</sup>

The new attendance record was interpreted as an indication

. . . of the hold that the sport has on the public. Neither hockey nor lacrosse has ever attracted such a large crowd as this and if the U. of T. Stadium had more accommodation, it is

---

<sup>138</sup>Toronto Globe, November 7, 1924.

<sup>139</sup>Toronto Globe, November 24, 1924.



probable that the attendance would have been 25,000 people.<sup>140</sup>

The Ontario Union had a new entry in 1924 and a new winner also. After the confusion surrounding the 1923 championship O.R.F.U. game, the Toronto Parkdales decided to disband. As a result, "it left too many players for only one club; so rather than warm a bench, a lot of us decided to have a senior team of our own. Beaches--just like that."<sup>141</sup> The Beaches, or "Balmy" Beaches as they were known, gave an indication of a successful future by holding the powerful Queen's team to 11 points while losing 11-3, on November 29th, before a gathering of 6,000 spectators.

The Grey Cup game was to be played between Queen's and a new Western representative, the Winnipeg Victorias. However, the problem with railroads, which was almost responsible for Regina's not travelling to Kingston in 1923, actually stopped the Winnipeg team from travelling East, in 1924. There were two railroads serving the West--the Canadian National and the Canadian Pacific, and it became a matter of great concern, requiring the most careful scrutiny, as to which railroad would be used. Most of the clubs in the West were dependent upon merchants and businesses for much of their revenues. The attendance at most of their games would be under 2,000 people, and the necessary money to purchase equipment and to provide for day-to-day expenses was not entirely provided by attendance revenues.

In Winnipeg's case, the executive wanted to take the C.P.R. train, while many of the players wanted to travel by the C.N.R. "The players

---

<sup>140</sup>Ibid.

<sup>141</sup>Ted Reeve, Grandstand Quarterback. (Toronto: Longmans, Green and Company, 1955) p. 3.





decided to go on their own accord but the officials stepped in and prevented them from going as a Victoria Club."<sup>142</sup>

The Queen's versus Balmy Beach game is listed as the official Grey Cup game of 1924. While it was the third consecutive Grey Cup victory for Queen's, it was their last. Not only that, it was also the last Grey Cup that would be won by a University team. The domination of Canadian football by the universities had reached its zenith with the Queen's team which, extending into 1925, set a mark of 26 consecutive victories against all opposition, in league and playoff games.

---

<sup>142</sup>Toronto Globe, December 1, 1924.





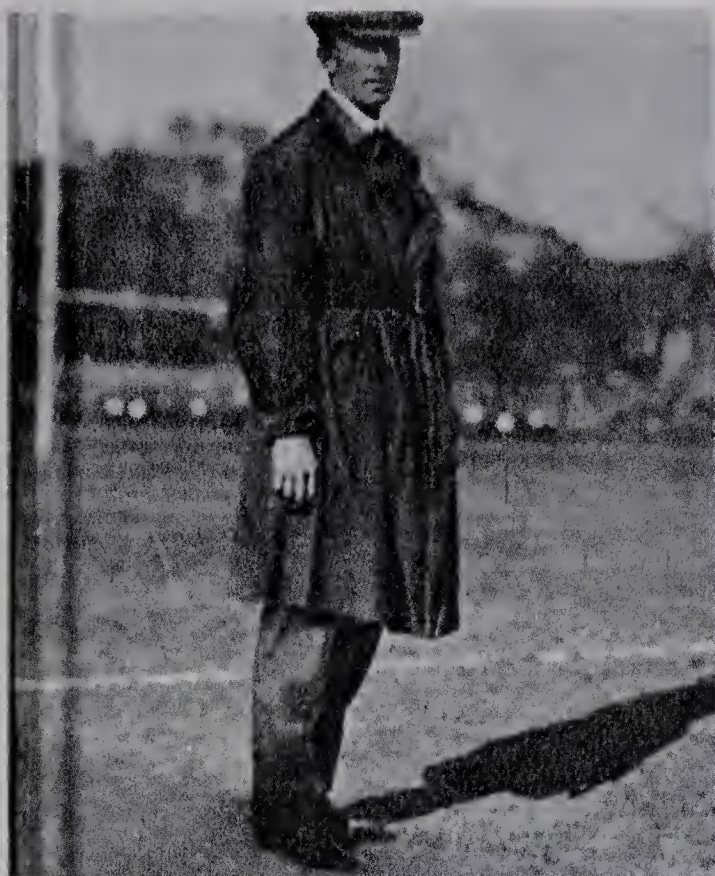


Fig. 3. Frank Shaughnessy



Fig. 4. C.R.U. Championship Cap



Fig. 5. Trophies presented to Frank Shaughnessy by McGill--1912, 1913



Fig. 6. Hugo Ross Trophy







Fig. 7. Ball Carrier Smirle Lawson--1909



Fig. 8. First Grey Cup Winners--U. of T. 1909



Fig. 9.

Action From First Grey Cup Game: Varsity vs. Parkdale Canoe Club, 1909







Fig. 10. First O.R.F.U. Grey Cup Team: Hamilton Alerts, 1912



Fig. 11. Alerts Pennant      Fig. 12. Hamilton Tigers Sweater Coat--1913



Fig. 13. Edmonton Eskimos: First Western Representatives, 1921







Fig. 14. 14 Man Football Line-up: Edmonton, 1913



Fig. 15. Snap, Scrim Supports, Quarterback: Edmonton, 1913.





Fig. 16. One Piece Canvas Uniform,  
 ← Edmonton, 1913



Fig. 17. Two Piece Uniform,  
 Edmonton, 1913



Fig. 18. Harry Batstone, 1922





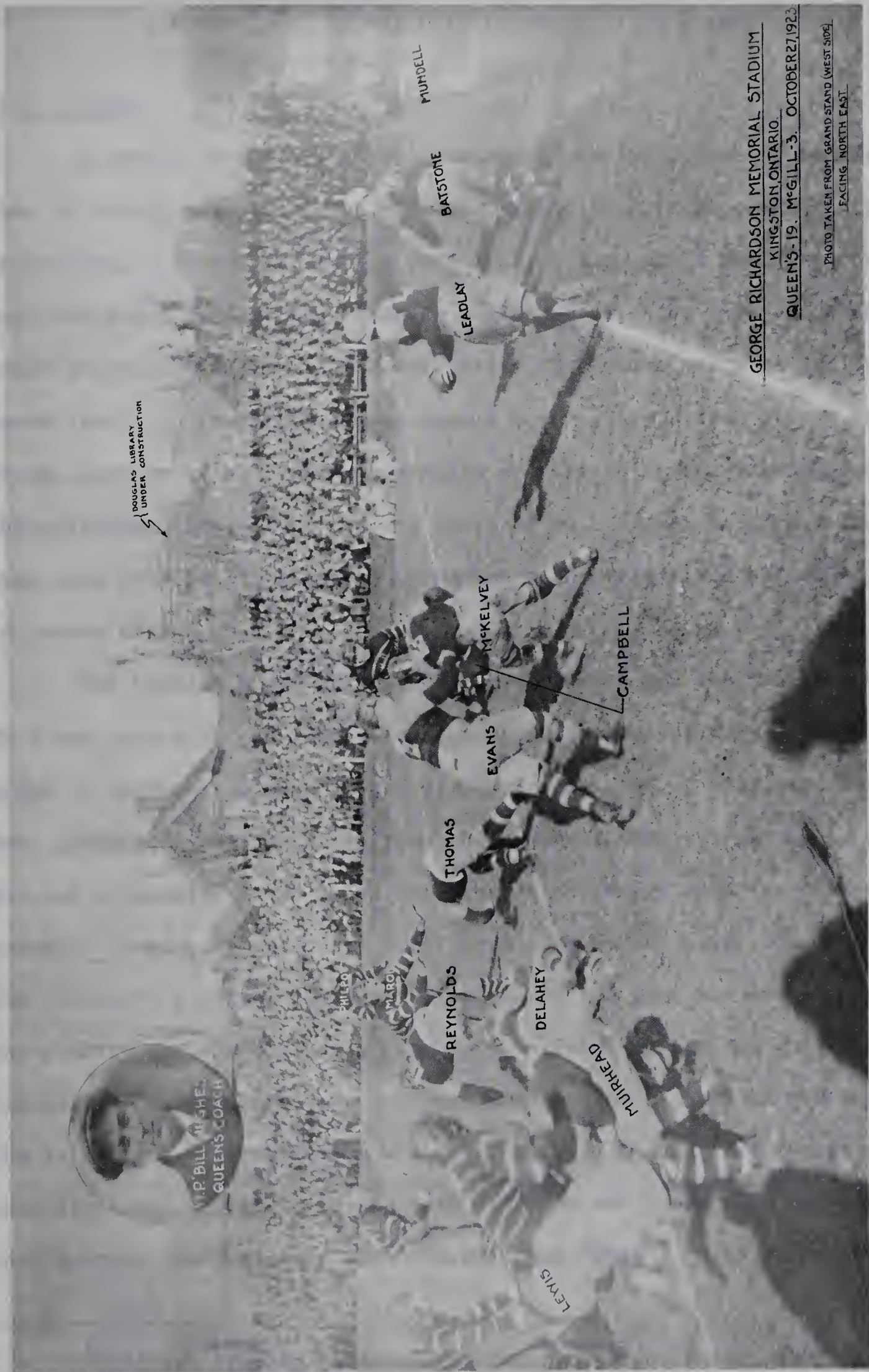


Fig. 19. Typical Extension Play, 1923





## CHAPTER V

### THE SUPREMACY OF THE CITY LEAGUES: 1925 - 1945

#### 1925 - 1930

Canadian football was still "amateur" in 1925, more so in spirit than in actual practice. The rules continued to be refined and it is interesting to note that, in the year 1925, a team could be fined for contravening a regulation. Because of the progressive lack of daylight hours during the autumn it was imperative that games start at the indicated time. In the event of one team's being late, either at the beginning of the game or at half-time, a penalty of fifteen yards was imposed upon the offending team. But, "in the event of both teams offending, the home team will be penalized 15 yards and both teams fined an amount, not in excess of \$50.00."<sup>1</sup>

The "tandem buck" of more than two players was also eliminated. This was done with the idea of doing away with "massed plays", in order to encourage a more "open" style of play. As of 1925, the assistance given to a ball carrier from behind, could come only from one player who had originally lined up on the line of scrimmage when the ball was snapped. Time penalties were still very much in evidence. For "illegal obstructing", a player could be ruled out of the game for three minutes. The penalty for the defending team being offside on its own goal line was banishment from the game for five minutes for the person who committed the infraction. Substitution was still allowed on a limited basis. The substitute had to report to the head linesman and could only enter once, each quarter, on occasions when the ball was "dead". Failure to observe

---

<sup>1</sup>Official Playing Rules of the Canadian Rugby Union, 1925, p. 20.



any of these requirements meant a penalty of three minutes, for both the substitute and the person for whom he was substituting.

The ban on coaching from the sidelines, introduced into the rules in 1921, was still in effect. It stated:

Coaching from the side lines is prohibited in the rules because it is considered unfair practice. The game is to be played by the players using their own muscle and their own brains. If for example, an onlooker, having seen all the hands in a game of cards, undertook to tell one of the players what card to play, the other players would have just cause to object. The sending in of substitutes for the purpose of giving information as to the following play is an unfair evasion of the spirit of true sportsmanship.<sup>2</sup>

Similarly, in recognition of the fact that ways to circumvent rules could always be found, the rules of 1925 also contained an excerpt entitled: THE FOOTBALL CODE.

You may meet players and even coaches who will tell you that it is all right to hold or otherwise violate the rules if you do not get caught. This is the code of men whose sense of honor is sadly lacking.

"The football code is different. The football player who intentionally violates a rule is guilty of unfair play and unsportsmanlike tactics, and whether or not he escapes being penalized, he brings discredit to the good name of the game, which it is his duty as a player to uphold."<sup>3</sup>

There was, however, a significant change that did occur in 1925. The "huddle" was introduced into Canadian football and again the innovator was Frank Shaughnessy. McGill first used it on October 31st, and, needless to say, the "conference system", as it was called, created a stir. There were protests that the huddle would not be effective because of the twenty second time limit on putting the ball into play, and that the

---

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 13.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.





huddle would erode the authority of the signal caller.

Shaughnessy defended his system. He stated that

. . . while the conference might at first appear to the spectators as slow, yet, in actual time McGill were getting the ball into play within ten seconds on many occasions, twelve seconds on an average, and fourteen seconds as the slowest time to get moving. McGill has not had a down called against them for failure to set the ball in motion, within the required time limit of twenty seconds, while both University of Toronto and Queen's, who have the ordinary method of calling signals have been penalized for infringing the twenty second rule.<sup>4</sup>

The McGill innovation had the advantage of lessening the task of learning a complicated system of signals. Players, as a result, had only to learn five or six basic formations and know the numbering of positions along the line and in the backfield. A further advantage was, of course, that the defensive team could no longer hear the signals of the offensive team, and, therefore, they had no idea where the play would be headed. Under the old system, teams seldom made changes in their signals from game to game, and in many cases from year to year. As a result, the defensive team might know the signals of its opponent equally as well as the team with the ball.

As inventive as Shaughnessy was, the Intercollegiate Union was still at this time being dominated by Queen's University. The University of Toronto was faring poorly, being in the unaccustomed position of last place, and the question was being asked by many people: "What is the matter with the University of Toronto?" As it was the only team in the Intercollegiate Union without a professional coach, the blame for its poor standing was pointed in that direction. While it was pointed out that "the question of employment of professional coaches is a moot one, not

---

<sup>4</sup>Toronto Globe, November 12, 1925.





because of the desirability of having the expert instruction but because of the abuses which very often follow the pro system", the Globe went on to ask:

What objection can there be to the use of expert instructors in any line of endeavor. Honorary coaches get little else than abuse for their earnest efforts to assist their alma mater. If it can be shown that the abuses, which seem to be a concomitant of pro coaching, cannot be eliminated, the argument against the professional instructor will be greatly strengthened.<sup>5</sup>

As the season ended and the series leading to the Grey Cup game commenced, Queen's defeated Toronto Balmy Beaches by the score of 21-9. The only consolation that the Beaches had was that it was up to that time the only team to score a "try" on the Queen's team in 1925. Queen's was expected to win their next game against the Ottawa team of the Inter-provincial Union, in 1925 known as the Senators, but it was not to be.

Ottawa appears to have always been an unknown quantity. From almost the first years of its existence, it has appeared to be a team which was constantly riddled with internal dissension. In 1923, the team was destroyed from within by a religious feud. "It reached the point where the Catholic linemen wouldn't open a hole for the Protestant backfielders and the Protestants wouldn't open them for the Catholics. Even on the sidelines, all the Catholics had to sit on a green bench and the Protestants on another."<sup>6</sup> But, in 1925, there appeared to be no signs of dissension. The Ottawa team stopped the Queen's team by defeating them by the score of 11-2. It was Queen's first loss after 26 consecutive victories.

---

<sup>5</sup>Toronto Globe, November 7, 1925.

<sup>6</sup>Brian Timmis, An Interview With The Writer, May 15, 1968.



In the West, Regina had appointed an American as coach, "Doc" Blackwood. It was hoped that Blackwood, from the University of Chicago, would enable Regina to improve to the point where it might put up a better showing in the Grey Cup game. Before the Regina team and the Winnipeg Tammany Tigers were to meet for the Western title, there were appearances of some dissatisfaction as to the inequities which existed in the Western Unions. The major complaint was that teams in Alberta and Saskatchewan played fewer games to declare a champion, while in Manitoba, because of its four team league, more games were played. The situation was further compounded by the cancellation of the playoff game between the University of Alberta, winners of the Alberta Union, and the Regina team, winners of the Saskatchewan Union. The game was to have been played in Edmonton on November 7th, but due to the unseasonably cold weather--it was minus 16 degrees--the University cancelled the game and would not reschedule it. Regina, as a result, was declared the winner and proceeded to meet the Winnipeg Tigers. The Winnipeg team defeated Regina and travelled East to play the Ottawa Senators. The Senators had a relatively easy time in defeating the Winnipeg team by a score of 24-1.

During the 1926 season, a change was made in the method of converting a "try". Previously, the rule stated:

When a side has obtained a try, one of its players shall bring the ball straight up to the goal-line and thence out into the grounds, not more in front of the goal than where it was declared dead and there place it for one of his side to kick at goal. When a try has been scored in touch in goal, the kick shall be taken from the touch-line of that side of the field on which the try was scored.<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup>Official Playing Rules of the C.R.U., 1924, p. 17.





Under the old method, a player scoring a try had to fight his way into a position, behind the goal line, where he could "down" the ball, so as to give his side a good opportunity to convert the "try". As a result, "a player was hit much harder in the goal area, after he had scored the 'try', because his opponents did not want to give him an easy angle from which to convert the 'try'".<sup>8</sup>

The new rule stated that the ball would automatically be brought out to the 35 yard line after a "try", from which point any member of the scoring team could attempt the convert by means of a drop kick.

New rules were also brought into effect with respect to a player's attire. The numbering of players was made compulsory in 1924, but it had been in general use much before that time. Helmets were still the exception rather than the rule. To some, they were considered to be the "mark of a sissy", while to others the helmet was thought of as a necessary means of protection. To Brian Timmis, however, helmets were simply too dangerous. Timmis wore a helmet only once--the type which was fastened by tying strings around the neck, under the chin. "Somebody tackled me high once, and pulled the helmet so that it almost choked me to death. I never wore one after that."<sup>9</sup> It appears, however, that helmets were being used for other than protection. A new rule, passed in 1926, stated that "the employment of headguards or

---

<sup>8</sup>Dr. Harry Batstone, An Interview With The Writer, May 17, 1968.

<sup>9</sup>Brian Timmis, op. cit.





other objects in order to deceive the opponents as to the whereabouts of the ball is prohibited".<sup>10</sup> In the same year, restrictions on the size of cleats were also passed for the first time. The new regulation stated that "no cleat where it enters the ground shall have a lesser end area than three-sixteenths square inches and no dimensions less than three-sixteenths of an inch".<sup>11</sup>

Shaughnessy's huddle system was not in general use by 1926. The Hamilton Tigers attempted to use it, but their coach, Sam Manson, abandoned the idea because "it slows up the play and deprives football of many of its features".<sup>12</sup>

In the Intercollegiate Union, the ire of the officials of that Union was being directed at Queen's once again. Queen's had contravened an Intercollegiate regulation which said that "players and coaches of teams idle in the three team league are not permitted to attend Intercollegiate games".<sup>13</sup> This "scouting" on the part of Queen's was likened to "coaching", which was also illegal, and was definitely considered to be unsportsmanlike behavior.

In the West, Canadian football was continuing to grow in popularity in the province of British Columbia. Officials from the various clubs in that province asked to be admitted to the

---

<sup>10</sup>Official Playing Rules of the C.R.U., 1926, p. 29.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid.

<sup>12</sup>Toronto Globe, September 27, 1926.

<sup>13</sup>Toronto Globe, October 14, 1926.



W.C.R.U., in order to compete for the Western Canada championship. After initially turning down the request, because of the costs and distances involved, it was decided to allow the British Columbia winners to compete. The Alberta winners would travel to Vancouver to meet the British Columbia champion and the winner of that game would meet the winner of the Saskatchewan versus Manitoba game.

There appeared to be no doubt that one of the reasons linked to a team's success or failure during this period was the amount of practice time available to that team. All the senior teams, throughout the country, were dependent, to an extent, on employers who would allow football players to leave their place of employment early, in order to attend a football practice during the daylight. A survey conducted by the Globe showed that four teams were holding morning and afternoon practices. Three of the teams were members of the Intercollegiate Union while the fourth was an armed forces team entered in the O.R.F.U., from Camp Borden. It was stated that this team, coached by Dave Harding, a former Queen's man, "played football 10 hours a day and talk about it the rest of the time".<sup>14</sup> The article further stated that while Hamilton and Ottawa and Montreal had sympathetic employers who would allow the members of those teams to leave early for practice, Toronto was not so fortunate and as a result, "the Argonauts and Balmy Beaches were the arc-light fiends".<sup>15</sup>

---

<sup>14</sup>Toronto Globe, October 14, 1926.

<sup>15</sup>Ibid.





As the play-off series started in the East and in the West, there was much speculation as to whether there would be a Grey Cup game. The University of Alberta travelled to Vancouver to play against the Victoria team, representatives of British Columbia. They defeated the Victoria team rather easily, by the score of 21-2, and prepared to meet the winners of the Saskatchewan-Manitoba series. Regina had a much more difficult time with the St. John's team of Winnipeg. With less than one minute to play in the game, Regina kicked for the tying single point and it became necessary to play an additional twenty minutes to decide the winner. In the overtime period, Regina scored eight points, while St. John's was held to none, and Regina was declared the winner by a 13-5 score. Regina continued their fine play and defeated the University of Alberta team by the same 13-5 score.

The Regina team, however, decided not to travel East to compete for the Cup Championship and the Ottawa Senators, who defeated the Toronto Balmy Beaches 7-6, and the University of Toronto 10-7, were declared Grey Cup champions for 1926.

There was much agitation in 1927 to reduce the required distance for converts. The minimum distance of 35 yards had rendered most of the drop kickers ineffectual. Even "Pep" Leadley, considered by most football followers to be the best of the drop kickers, and who, in one game against the Montreal Winged Wheelers, kicked five field goals from drop kicks, had his problems in attempting to convert "trys". Leadley, as with many other drop kickers, was more accurate within the 25 yard line. The convert, however, was to be attempted from the 35 yard line and this was interpreted as the main reason that, of the nine "trys" made by Hamilton Tigers, none was converted.





It was becoming increasingly evident that the city teams were becoming too powerful for the university teams. With relative ease, the Hamilton Tigers defeated the Queen's team by the score of 21-6. Hamilton's dream of establishing a dynasty, however, was rudely jolted by the O.R.F.U. champion Balmy Beaches. The champions of the O.R.F.U., which that season consisted of the Beaches, Camp Borden, the University of Toronto Seconds and the Hamilton Tiger Seconds, defeated the Tigers by a 9-7 score. Regina, again, did not travel East, and The Toronto Balmy Beaches became the second O.R.F.U. team, and the first since the Alerts in 1912, to win the Grey Cup.

Regina's reasons for not competing were partly financial. With the British Columbia teams recognized by the rest of the West, there was, as a result, more travel than at any other time in the West's football history. Certainly, the players were not in a position to be away from their work for great periods of time, something which was happening in the West as a result of the distances and the increasing number of Unions involved. Because of these distances, the West found it necessary, from the beginning of the founding of the W.C.R.U., to include in its constitution the exact proportion of the receipts that would be given to the visiting team in a playoff series. In 1927, the Constitution of the Western Canada Rugby Union stated:

When Manitoba plays in Alberta, or vice versa, the visiting club is to be guaranteed \$750.44 and 50% of the net gate, such amount not to exceed \$500.00.

When Saskatchewan plays Alberta, and vice versa, the visiting club is to be guaranteed \$425.00 and 50% of the net gate, such amount not to exceed \$300.00.

When Manitoba plays in Saskatchewan or vice versa, the visiting club is to be guaranteed \$325.00 and 50% of the net gate, such amount not to exceed \$250.00.<sup>16</sup>

---

<sup>16</sup> Constitution of the Western Canada Rugby Union, 1927, p. 4.



There was no stipulation regarding contests between the older members and British Columbia. It was, therefore, left to the individual teams to make their own financial arrangements without the aid of the constitution. Regina defeated the Winnipeg Tammany Tigers by a score of 17-2, and, because Alberta declined to participate in 1927, Regina travelled to British Columbia in order to play the University of British Columbia. It was decided that, because of the distance involved, it would be better to play a three game series, rather than the traditional one game to decide the championship of the West. The three game series had the advantage of increasing the possibility of making the contest financially feasible. The first game was played on Wednesday, November 16, and Regina defeated the University of British Columbia by a 13-1 score. The series was almost terminated after the first game. Regina wanted a "guarantee of \$1800.00 and 50% of the gate receipts from three games after expenses. The University of British Columbia countered with an offer of \$1000.00 and an additional \$800.00 if that much remained after expenses."<sup>17</sup> After a compromise agreement was reached, the two teams played again on Saturday, November 19. Regina again defeated the university team, this time by a score of 19-0. The new Western champions, because of the additional travelling which would be required, declined to challenge for the Grey Cup.

As a result of the Balmy Beach victory, the O.R.F.U. received many new applications for membership. It was decided that two divisions would be necessary for 1928. Group Number 1 was made up of the University of Toronto Seconds, Kitchener and Sarnia. In Group Number 2 were Toronto Balmy Beach, Camp Borden and Hamilton Seconds.

---

<sup>17</sup>Toronto Globe, November 18, 1927.





There was also, in 1928, a remarkable number of coaching changes! Shaughnessy left McGill to become a baseball scout with Detroit and the honorary coach of Loyola University's football team. Dave McCann was replaced in Ottawa by Walter Gilhooley, while Les Blackwell was appointed coach at the University of Toronto. Lester Pearson's replacement as coach of the University of Toronto Seconds was Jim Douglas, and Bill Hughes decided to leave Queen's University and return to the Montreal A.A.A. team of the Interprovincial Union. Hamilton Tigers also made a change in coaching for the 1928 season. They hired Mike Rodden for the sum of \$750.00 plus an additional \$250.00 for each playoff game won by the Hamilton Tigers. Rodden had coached with the Toronto Argonauts in 1927, but decided to take the Hamilton position because "the Argonaut Club management had agreed to pay me \$500.00 for coaching duties, but they ignored that arrangement".<sup>18</sup>

The concept of amateurism, while superficially adhered to, was in reality being ignored in football. As early as 1925, Maclean's started publishing a series of articles which dealt with the question of amateurism in Canadian sports. Lou Marsh, in his article titled: "How Amateur are Canadian Amateurs?"<sup>19</sup> decided that it was time to end the hypocrisy of amateur sport. As far as Marsh was concerned there was only one solution to the "problem" of the evasions of the spirit, if not the letter, of the amateur law.

---

<sup>18</sup> Mike Rodden, An Interview with the Writer, May 17, 1968.

<sup>19</sup> Lou Marsh, "How Amateur Are Canadian Amateurs". Maclean's, October 15, 1925.





It is either right or wrong under the amateur code. If it is wrong under the code, then it should be checked. If the amateur code is too old fashioned for these modern days, then the code should be amended to suit the times.<sup>20</sup>

Roxborough, in 1926, wrote, in Maclean's, an article entitled "What is Sport Worth to Canada".<sup>21</sup> His approach to the question of amateurism typified the "Divine Right" approach of most amateur adherents. In his description of a forthcoming meeting of the A.A.U. of C., Roxborough stated that Saint John was the next city to play host to the next session

. . . of the Parliament of Canadian Sport . . . Once a year for nearly four decades, men have temporarily deserted business and profession at the summons of the speaker of this Parliament and criss-crossed the northern half of this continent to answer the call of sport--amateur sport.<sup>21</sup>

In a later article by Roxborough, in a section dealing specifically with football, he asked:

Today, by the giving of uniforms, memberships, equipment, too liberal travelling allowances, training tables and special comforts, are we not creating in the minds of our athletes, a feeling that they are doing us a favor by playing our games? Surely this is not a desirable state of mind and it is only a short step across the border to professionalism.<sup>22</sup>

That "short step across the border" was to be necessarily avoided, as far as Roxborough was concerned--his comments were typical of the general pro-amateur sentiments--because, "professionalism's ideal is the making of money, while amateurism's ideal is the making of men".<sup>23</sup>

---

<sup>20</sup>Ibid., p. 17.

<sup>21</sup>H.H. Roxborough, "What is Sport Worth to Canada". Maclean's, December 1, 1926, p. 12.

<sup>22</sup>H.H. Roxborough, "Is Worship of Mammon Killing Amateur Sport". Maclean's, February 15, 1928, p. 49.

<sup>23</sup>H.H. Roxborough, "Cash or Character". Maclean's, April 15, 1928, p. 3.



Nonetheless, many football players did attempt to gain something, however small, from their football ability. Bruce Inksetter, who was an Inside Wing with the Hamilton Tigers commencing in the 1928 season, describes the general situation in Hamilton:

If a player made a regular place on the team and looked like a good prospect, he would be offered a job in local industry or on the City payroll. Thus we had Ernie Cox, Bert Gibb, French and Languay on the fire department. Sprague was a policeman, Seymore Wilson and Fred Veale in the City Hall. Brian Timmis had the best job of all as a foreman with Piggot Construction Company.<sup>24</sup>

1928 was also the year in which the effects of football uniform changes were most noticeable. The most popular type of performers, such as Varsity's Smirle Lawson, preferred to cut their uniform above the knees. Built-in shoulder pads, usually a hard piece of fibre, sewn into the lining of the canvas suits, were introduced just prior to the Great War but they did not come into general acceptance and use until the post-war revival. This uniform, while it was widely used, was not generally well liked. The loose fit caused the pads to "dig into your shoulder and you were more liable to be hurt by the pad than protected by it".<sup>25</sup>

By 1921, short pants "with bamboo strips for thigh guards",<sup>26</sup> were in use along with adjustable shoulder pads, which fitted under the sweaters. A person's head gear could vary from a thick head of hair, or a helmet, or cap with a peak, the advantage of the latter being that "you could always shade your eyes from the sun by simply

---

<sup>24</sup>Bruce Inksetter, Letter to the writer, December 12, 1968.

<sup>25</sup>Dr. Harry Batstone, Op. Cit.

<sup>26</sup>Brian Timmis, Op. Cit.





pulling down the peak".<sup>27</sup>

In 1928, there was another variation in the equipment. Because of the many times that Frank Turville of the Argonauts had been "downed" as a result of an opponent who had seized the sleeves of Turville's sweater, he decided to wear leather sleeves. It was reasoned that "these would not provide as good a hand hold as a sweater sleeve."<sup>28</sup>

There were also some surprises on the field of play in 1928. The O.R.F.U. title was won by the University of Toronto Seconds, who upset the heavily favored Balmy Beach team. Previous to 1928, the Seconds had been coached by Lester Pearson, who left his teaching and coaching post at the university in order to assume new employment with the Canadian Civil Service as first secretary for the Department of External Affairs. Pearson's groundwork with the Seconds paid dividends for the University of Toronto in an otherwise bleak football season. The Intercollegiate Union was won by McGill and they again declined to enter the Grey Cup series. The strong Hamilton Tigers had little trouble in defeating the representatives of the O.R.F.U. by a 28-5 score.

Regina Roughriders were to be the representatives of the West for the Grey Cup renewal in 1928. The Regina team had played its last game of the western season on October 27 and on that day Regina defeated the Winnipeg St. John's team by a score of 12-1. The Roughriders had an impressive record. Starting in 1926, Regina had won 17 consecutive games and outscored their opposition by a combined total of 302 points to 35. The University of Manitoba

---

<sup>27</sup> Dr. Harry Batstone, op. cit.

<sup>28</sup> Toronto Globe, October 26, 1928.





had scored the highest total in one game against Regina, scoring 7 points in 1926, while losing to the Regina team by a 36-7 score. However, in the Grey Cup game of 1928, the Regina string of victories came to an abrupt halt when the Hamilton Tigers defeated the Western representatives by a score of 30-0.

The Grey Cup, which had only been sparsely mentioned in the newspapers since 1909, received an interesting mention in the Globe September 5, 1929. From the article it was possible to form an impression of what had happened to the Cup since 1909. It also clears up, definitely, an erroneous impression about the Cup. The article was written by Mike Rodden, who, as well as being the coach of the Hamilton Tigers, was also employed by the Toronto Globe. Rodden stated:

Although the Earl Grey Cup is emblematic of the Canadian Senior Football Championship, and as such is expected to show in tablet form, the names of all the teams that have won all the honours since 1909, this matter has been badly neglected. The names of the players and the coaches of the 1909-10-11 University of Toronto teams have been neatly described as have the Argonauts of 1914, University of Toronto of 1920, and Queen's University of 1922-23-24 machines. But all the recognition the Ottawa teams of 1925 and 1926, Balmy Beach of '27 and Tigers of '28 received, was a small tablet containing only the name of the club. They may have a grievance but nothing in comparison to the following teams who are not even remembered. Tigers of 1912 (should be 1913) and 1915, Hamilton Alerts of 1913 (should be 1912) and Argonauts of 1921.<sup>29</sup>

Rodden went on to say that it was up to the Canadian Union to treat each winner alike. If some winners were to have their names inscribed on a plaque, then all winners should have their names engraved in like fashion. The article does, however, clear up,

---

<sup>29</sup>Mike Rodden, Article in the Toronto Globe, September 5, 1929.



to an extent, the shield which was found on the Grey Cup in 1968, commemorating the Hamilton Tiger victory of 1908. According to the shields on the Grey Cup in 1968, the Tigers were the first Cup winners in 1908. However, it is known for certain that the Cup was not donated until 1909, and, furthermore, the above article makes it quite clear that the 1908 shield was not put in place on the base of the Cup until later than September 5, 1929.

Certainly the major news in Canadian football, in 1929, was the adoption by the C.R.U., on a limited basis, of the forward pass. Frank Shaughnessy, as early as 1921, had advocated the adoption of the forward pass in Canadian football. However, there were too many changes in 1921 as far as some football followers were concerned and Shaughnessy's suggestion was disregarded. The year 1929 was to be an experimental year for the forward pass. If its use was considered to have been successful, the pass was to be adopted as part of the C.R.U. rules for all series.

The forward pass was adopted at a special meeting of the Canadian Rugby Union on September 12, 1929. It was decided at that meeting, that the forward pass was to be used "in all Junior and Interscholastic series and finals and in the Senior final between the East and the West and in all series in the two Western Unions".<sup>30</sup> The "two Western Unions" referred to were the Western Canada Rugby Union and the Western Intercollegiate Union, which had been in operation since 1927.

---

<sup>30</sup>Official Playing Rules of the C.R.U., 1929, p. 19.





There were definite restrictions placed on the forward pass of 1929 (see appendix A). It could only be thrown from a point five yards behind the line of scrimmage. Six players, the end men of the line of scrimmage, three half backs and the flying wing, were eligible to receive a pass. The pass had to be completed outside the opponents' twenty-five yard line and over the line of scrimmage. If the forward pass were not completed, the ball was to be treated exactly like a kick. Three yards had to be given to the opponents and they, once they fielded the ball, could attempt to run the ball back in an attempt to score. Because it was feared that the use of the forward pass might be detrimental to the development of kickers, and also minimize kicking in the Canadian game, it was decided not to allow any forward passing on third down.

The inclusion of the forward pass into the rules of 1929 necessitated a slight revision in the rule governing the size of the ball. The size of the ball had remained constant since the 1906 season, until 1915. In that year, the C.R.U. rules stated that the ball should be "not less than  $13\frac{1}{2}$  ounces and not more than  $14\frac{1}{2}$  ounces in weight".<sup>31</sup> In 1924, the rule was further revised. It specified that the ball should have the following dimensions: "circumference of long axis 28 to  $28\frac{1}{2}$  inches, circumference of the short axis  $22\frac{1}{2}$  to 23 inches, and the weight 14 to 15 ounces".<sup>32</sup> The rules of 1929 prescribed that, in addition

---

<sup>31</sup>Official Playing Rules of the C.R.U., 1915, p. 7.

<sup>32</sup>Official Playing Rules of the C.R.U., 1924, p. 15.





the length of the long axis was to be from 11 to 11½ inches.

While there was great speculation about the value of the forward pass, the game itself was not greatly changed, particularly in the West, where it was used during the season of 1929. The main reason for this was simply that the drastic effects of an incomplete pass dictated that the pass would be used as a surprise method of attack rather than as an integral part of a team's style of play. This, coupled with the fact that there were simply not enough players available who were proficient with the forward pass, militated against its usage on a regular basis in 1929.

In the West, the 1929 season opened on September 21st. In the game between Saskatoon and Regina, the forward pass was not used at all, while, in the game between Calgary and Edmonton, it was not used until the fourth quarter. At that time, Calgary, with a good lead over Edmonton, used the forward pass with good results. Jerry Seiberling, a halfback from Drake University, threw the first completed pass in Canada, in league competition, to Ralph Losie, one of Calgary's outside wings. The game ended with the Calgary team defeating the Edmonton Eskimos by a score of 33-8.

The first pass which accounted for a touchdown was not thrown until the following week. Edmonton Eskimos were playing the University of Alberta team. In that game, won by the University team by a 13-6 score, Joe Cook the Edmonton quarterback, completed a 20 yard pass to Pal Power, who in turn ran an additional 35 yards to score the try.



Football continued to grow in Canada. Another Senior Union was formed in the West in 1927. It was an Intercollegiate union, comprised of the universities in the Western Provinces. There were, in 1929, 30 senior teams playing football in Canada--sixteen in the East and fourteen in the West. The Intercollegiate Union in the East was still enjoying the greatest following. A fourth member, the University of Western Ontario, had been added and an attendance record had been set when, in a game between Varsity and Queen's, 18,369 spectators were attracted to the contest. Sarnia emerged as winners of the Ontario Union but were defeated by the Hamilton Tigers by a score of 14-2. Hamilton next defeated Queen's by a 14-3 score and prepared to meet the Western representatives, the Regina Roughriders, in the Grey Cup game of 1929--the first one in which the forward pass was to be used.

The game was looked forward to by the public with some excitement because of the forward pass. While it had been in use in the West throughout the 1929 season, it was not used in the East at all that year and so it was still much of a novelty to the Eastern followers. All week long, prior to the game, press reports from Hamilton indicated that not only were the Tigers prepared for the pass defensively, but they had also become quite adept at throwing the forward pass.

Actually, Regina had used the pass only four times all season. Only one of the four passes thrown by the Regina team had been completed. The forward pass did help them to come to the Grey Cup game, but not because of Regina's offensive use of it. Fred Brown of Regina intercepted one of Seiberling's passes in the play-off game with Calgary,





and ran 55 yards for a Regina touchdown to help that team defeat Calgary by a score of 15-8.

Wintry weather, and generally miserable weather conditions held the attendance to less than 2,000 people for the 1929 Grey Cup game which was played in Hamilton on November 30. Hamilton defeated the Roughriders by a score of 14-3 in spite of Regina's success with the forward pass.

What stood out above anything else in the Roughriders' bag of tricks was their unexpected and abundant employment of the much debated forward pass. Launching this potent weapon early in the afternoon, with "Jersey" Campbell, southpaw snapback, elected to do most of the tossing, the westerners discovered that Hamilton, despite optimistic press reports, had manufactured no defence against the aerial threat. The result was that before the dust of battle subsided, Campbell had thrown nine forward passes and Mitchell two, eight of which had been cleanly caught and completed for gains varying up to 40 yards. Their extravagant use of the forward pass, which they had scarcely used back home, was one of the chief reasons why Wilson's aggregation managed to put up the finest fight of any western team in the Canadian final.<sup>33</sup>

Hamilton attempted only one forward pass in that game. "Huck" Welch threw the ball to Jimmie Simpson, who in turn lateralled it to "Cap" Fear. Fear ended up scoring the try but it was disallowed, because of the official's ruling that Simpson caught the ball inside Regina's 25 yard line, which was illegal. The official, Priestly, happened to be from Winnipeg and there were some insinuations that his decision was influenced by his place of residence. The general consensus however, seemed to be that the conditions of the field were so bad that it was almost impossible to tell exactly where the 25 yard line was and as a result, Priestly had called the play the way that he saw it.

---

<sup>33</sup>Manitoba Free Press, December 2, 1929.





Even with the moderate success of the forward pass during the 1929 season, the C.R.U., stated that the pass would be used in the Grey Cup game of 1930 only if it had been used in the respective Unions of the two competing teams. No Union in the East intended to use it in the 1930 season and, as a result, the West, even though the forward pass was to be used again in that Union, would not be able to use it in the Grey Cup game of 1930.

The Hamilton Tigers made their third western tour in 1930 and, in the process, defeated the western opposition, under western rules, rather handily in all seven games. While outscoring the opposition by a combined total of 195 points to 19 points, the Tigers threw a total of 12 forward passes and completed 3-one for a "try". The combined western teams threw a total of 73 passes, none of which resulted in a try. It was during the Tiger tour of 1930 that the first game played under lights in Canada occurred. In a game played at Athletic Park in Vancouver, on September 29, 1930, the Hamilton team defeated a team from the University of British Columbia, under electric lights, by a score of 38-1. This was also the game in which Dave Sprague, at that time a young inexperienced substitute, first indicated that he was to be an excellent future performer.

The first game in the East, under lights, was also played in 1930. It was an exhibition affair, between Toronto Balmy Beach and the Oshawa Blue Devils, an intermediate team. The game took place at Ulster Stadium in Toronto, on October 29, 1930. The lighting arrangements were ideal. The reports of the game indicate that the numbers of the players could be easily distinguished from all sides of the field. It was further stated that



. . . it was practically as good as daylight football. Perhaps the day is not too far distant when many of the important games of football will be played at night. The only added feature would be a glass enclosed stand for the spectators to keep the night's chill away.<sup>34</sup>

The residence rule had been a part of the rules of football since prior to the Great War, when two members of the Hamilton Alerts, Fisher and Eeaker, showed up in Ottawa to play for the Rough Riders. The rule stated that a player for a city league team had to be a continuous resident of that city from June 1st of the year in which the football season was to be played. In the Ontario Union, the date of residence was September 1st. Introduced originally to curb any latent professionalism, the rule was eventually forgotten until it was resurrected in 1930. In that year, Hawley "Huck" Welch decided to leave Hamilton and play for the Montreal "Winged Wheelers", and "Irish" Monihan left Cornwall, Ontario, where there was an intermediate team, in order to play for the Ottawa Rough Riders. It is possible that the depression was beginning to have its effects. Jobs were difficult to find and maintain and because of this, the larger cities became more attractive to those who were seeking employment. It was evident, too, that football costs were beginning to rise during this period. The Toronto Argonauts estimated that it cost that club \$60 to outfit each man for the season.<sup>35</sup>

The Hamilton Tigers again won the Interprovincial championship and advanced to the Eastern semi-final series after defeating Queen's by a score of 8-3. The Tigers were surprised, however, by the winners of the O.R.F.U.--the Balmy Beach team from Toronto. The O.R.F.U. team upset the Tigers, defeating them 8-5, to win the right to represent

---

<sup>34</sup>Toronto Globe, October 30, 1930.

<sup>35</sup>Toronto Globe, October 15, 1930.





the East against the West in the annual Grey Cup game. In the West, the Regina team continued its winning ways. They first defeated the Winnipeg St. John's team 23-0, then the Calgary Tigers by a 9-6 score. After defeating the Vancouver Meralomas twice, 17-4 and 4-0, the Regina team was declared Western champions. It appears that Regina thought that Hamilton would win in the East and, therefore, it was reported from Regina that the Roughriders would not be contesting for the Grey Cup. After Balmy Beach defeated the Tigers, however, Regina sent word that it would make the trip East. They immediately sent a telegram to Mike Rodden, still the coach of the Hamilton Tigers. Regina asked: "Have Balmy Beach ever played a team using the forward pass? Do you think use of pass has much advantage to Regina in final?"<sup>36</sup>

The C.R.U., however, had previously stipulated that the forward pass would not be used in the 1930 final, unless both competing teams had used it during the regular season, in their respective Unions. Since Balmy Beach had not used it, the forward pass could not be used. Regina put up a good display and it was only through the outstanding kicking of Ab Box and the inspirational play of Ted Reeve, that the Balmy Beach team defeated the Regina Roughriders by a score of 11-6.

As the year drew to a close, the Interprovincial Union held its annual meeting on December 20, 1930. It was decided at that meeting that the forward pass would be used in that Union in 1931. A resolution to that effect was not only passed, it was also to be recommended to the C.R.U., that the forward pass be incorporated into the rules of that governing body.

---

<sup>36</sup>Toronto Globe, December 1, 1930.





1931 - 1938

The forward pass was adopted for all leagues in Canada at the annual meeting of the C.R.U., held in Winnipeg on February 28, 1931. The decision was not easily arrived at. Each Union seemed to be in favor of the forward pass but each also had definite views as to the composition of the rule. The Western Union suggested that all of the offensive players, with the exception of the five interior linemen, be eligible to receive the pass. The O.R.F.U. was of the opinion that the forward pass rule should be copied from the rules of American football. The Intercollegiate and Interprovincial unions were both satisfied with the Western rules of 1930 and thought that these rules should be continued for all of the C.R.U. for 1931. When the decision was made, the rules governing the forward pass for 1931 were similar to and yet different from the rules of 1929 and 1930.

As of 1931 (see appendix A) a forward pass could be thrown at any point on the field. If, however, it were attempted from a scrimmage within an opponent's 25 yard line and was not completed, the ball was automatically awarded to the non-passing team, who would scrimmage the ball on their own 25 yard line. While an incomplete pass meant only the loss of a down, two consecutive incomplete forward passes meant an additional 10 yard penalty. The pass could be thrown on any down, by an eligible receiver, but still had to be thrown from 5 yards behind the line of scrimmage. The eligible receivers were designated as the players on each end of the wing-line as well as all additional players who lined up one yard behind the line of scrimmage.

The other rule change of some importance affected the converting of a try. The distance for the conversion, which was 35 yards in 1926,



was narrowed to 25 yards in 1930, but the drop kick was still the only method of converting. In 1931, the distance was further reduced so that a convert could be attempted from the 5 yard line.<sup>37</sup> Furthermore, any one of three alternatives was open to the converting team after the try. From the scrimmage on the 5 yard line, the converting team could attempt a goal from the field by a drop or place kick, carry the ball over the goal line as on a running play, or complete a pass in the opponents goal area. It was also during this time when the terms "try" and "touchdown" were being used interchangeably. This was particularly true in the West, where, possibly because of the influx of American players, the old English terms were rapidly being replaced by American ones as the two games assumed more similarities.

The 1931 season was eagerly anticipated by football followers throughout Canada. Ted Reeve thought that the use of the forward pass would mean that the University teams would, once again, be the powers in Canadian football. His reasoning was that the forward pass "is a scoring threat that will need the most painstaking practice to perfect, and practice is one thing that the boys from the academy can have in almost any quantity".<sup>38</sup> Al Ritchie, coach of Regina, was happy with the rule and was of the opinion that the C.R.U. acted logically. He said:

We are living in an age of speed. There is a wave passing over the world demanding speed and action. The inclusion of the forward pass in Canadian football is not only a progressive step in keeping with this development, but it

---

<sup>37</sup> Official Playing Rules of the C.R.U., 1931.

<sup>38</sup> Ted Reeve, "They're At It Again, Maclean's, September 15, 1931, p. 12.





will provide a more fascinating game for the spectators and players alike.<sup>39</sup>

Frank Shaughnessy, who in 1931 returned to coach McGill, was of the opinion that the style of play would change little in that season as a result of the forward pass. The reason given was that Canadians were not familiar with the forward pass and therefore it would be a matter of some time before they would become adept at it. But, according to Shaughnessy, the mere fact that the forward pass was available as a threat "is sufficient to open up the game as a whole and to bear down on the mass formations we have had in the past".<sup>40</sup>

Shaughnessy was correct in his assessment of the use of the forward pass by Canadians and it was an American player, introduced to the Canadian game by Shaughnessy, who indicated the value of the pass as an offensive weapon. The name of that American was Warren Stevens.

Stevens was born in Syracuse, New York, and, after high school enrolled at Syracuse University, where he participated in football, basketball and baseball. Convinced that the game of the future was hockey, Stevens decided to attend McGill University as a graduate student in order to learn that game. It was while he was at McGill that Shaughnessy asked Stevens to instruct the McGill team in the use of the forward pass. Stevens did and his "pay for the McGill coaching job was a red McGill sweater".<sup>41</sup>

Shaughnessy next introduced Stevens to Clary Foran, the coach of the M.A.A.A. entry in the "Big Four". Stevens became a part of the

---

<sup>39</sup>Al Ritchie, "That Forward Pass", Maclean's, November 1, 1931, p. 15.

<sup>40</sup>Leslie Roberts, "The Forward Pass is Here". The Canadian Magazine, September 1931, p. 12.

<sup>41</sup>Warren Stevens, Letter to the writer, March 15, 1968.





"Winged Wheelers" and his reward was "a job with an oil company and a Christmas present of \$100.00".<sup>42</sup> The University of Toronto also decided to import help because of the new rule. Tilly Voss, an American was brought in to help the coach, Harry Hobbs, by instructing the team in the new forward pass. There was also agitation in Kingston, at Queen's, to hire an American assistant for coach Harry Batstone.

The first scoring in the East, as a result of the forward pass, was on October 10, 1931, in a game between the Montreal Winged Wheelers and the Ottawa Senators. Montreal defeated the Ottawa team by a score of 32-6 and, early in the game, Johnny Bennett heaved a short forward pass to Harry Garbarino for the convert, making the score 13-0 for the Winged Wheelers. It was in that same game that Warren Stevens threw a thirty-five yard pass to Frank Robinson resulting in the first touchdown pass in the East. As the Montreal club proceeded through the six game schedule undefeated, there was a great deal of controversy and some bitter words emanating from rival cities. Some people added a fourth "A" to the M.A.A.A. and called it the "Montreal Almost Amateur Athletic Association".<sup>43</sup> The Hamilton Herald stated:

. . . When the Canadian Rugby Football Union turned Yankee and accepted the forward pass into the Canadian game, it was the intention of that governing body that the pass be learned by Canadians and developed in this country without the aid of exponents of it from across the border. All of the senior clubs in the three Eastern unions, excepting Montreal, carried out the wishes of the parent organization.<sup>44</sup>

---

<sup>42</sup>Ibid.

<sup>43</sup>Tony Allen, Grey Cup Cavalcade, Winnipeg: Harlequin Books, 1959, p. 20.

<sup>44</sup>Hamilton Herald, November 3, 1931.



The Herald went on to say that Stevens was also the coach of the Montreal team and that Clary Foran was only the figurehead. It ended its article by stating that things would be different in 1932. The Globe stated bluntly that the success of Stevens' passing would lead to the importation of Americans "who would welcome the opportunity to come to Canada to play, providing jobs could be found for them".<sup>45</sup> Bob Isbister, a former player and official, stated that Americans should have been barred from the Canadian game for two years. His thinking was that this two year period would have been sufficient for the Canadians to become familiar with the forward pass. Harry Griffiths, the former Varsity coach, advocated the return to a more "Canadian" game. As far as Griffiths was concerned, the forward pass was not necessary.

. . . A good defence will make it less spectacular and then the fans will demand something else. We will be getting 10 and 15 yard interference. The game will then only be played by schools and university teams--outfits which can concentrate on its niceties. Keep this a Canadian game. Let us call a moratorium on rule changes for 10 years.<sup>46</sup>

Griffiths' alternative was to go back to the 14 man football with no substitution and no huddles.

At least one player was dismayed by the forward pass. Timmis stated that the forward pass was destroying the morale of the Tigers. Sprague and Timmis would carry the ball all the way down the field, with the assistance of the line blocking for them. The whole process might take from 10 to 15 plays but the whole team would achieve a sense of satisfaction from the resulting 1, 3, or 5 points. The satisfaction soon turned to frustration in games against Montreal, when

---

<sup>45</sup>Toronto Globe, November 4, 1931.

<sup>46</sup>Toronto Globe, November 3, 1931.





that team, with one forward pass, would gain in yardage what it had taken Hamilton five or six plays to acquire. Ernie Cox, the Hamilton snap, and the first winner of the Jeff Russel Trophy in 1928, retired after the 1931 season, because "the way football was played that year, it seemed like you needed roller skates to play the game".<sup>47</sup>

The Montreal team defeated the Intercollegiate champions, the University of Western Ontario, by a score of 22-0. Western had entered the Eastern final by defeating the Sarnia Imperials by a 7-1 score.

The Regina team won the Western Union championship in rather easy fashion, first defeating Winnipeg St. John's 47-5, and then the Calgary Altomahs by a score of 26-2. The Roughriders had a fine forward passer too--Curt Schave from the University of North Dakota.

In the Grey Cup game, played between Montreal and Regina on December 5, 1931, the Winged Wheelers defeated the Roughriders by a score of 22-0. Although both teams used the forward pass during the first series that they were in possession of the ball, Montreal threw only eleven passes and completed three while Regina threw twelve times and completed three. Regina was also awarded one completion for interference. Stevens threw a touchdown pass to Kenny Grant in that game--the first touchdown pass thrown in Grey Cup competition.

From 1929, Canada was in the midst of a world-wide depression and, to a great extent, this was responsible for many changes in Canadian football. Centres like Sarnia, which had a team sponsored by an oil company, suddenly found themselves with an abundance of talent. The

---

<sup>47</sup>Brian Timmis, op. cit.





depression was also responsible for the sudden mobility of labor between the United States and Canada. The question of employment was paramount in the minds of many Canadians and football players were no exception. As Inksetter stated: "It's hard to explain to the present generation, who have grown up in the lap of luxury and affluence, just what a JOB meant in those grim days of depression".<sup>48</sup> The depression had its effect in other ways as well. Bert Gibb would not attend Hamilton Tiger practices until that club bought him a new bicycle tire. One player would not play until the Hamilton club filled his cellar with coal, while another refused to turn out with the team until he received a sweater coat before the season started. The sweater coats were normally presented after the season, if the team won the championship of its league.<sup>49</sup>

As the 1932 season was about to get under way, it was announced that Warren Stevens would become the Athletic Director and coach of the University of Toronto. The University, which had for so long declared its opposition to professional coaches, used the same approach in hiring Stevens that Queen's had used when they hired Awrey.

The exodus of players from the smaller to the larger cities was evident in the West also. In Regina, which was hard hit by the depression, five players left for the larger city of Winnipeg, including Eddie "Dynamite" James--a famous father of a later-to-be-famous son. But, in spite of depressed economic conditions and dust storms,

---

<sup>48</sup>Inksetter, op. cit.

<sup>49</sup>Timmis, op. cit.



football continued to flourish on the prairies, especially in Regina. It was still possible in 1932, for 4,000 spectators to pay a dollar for reserved seats and fifty cents for standing room, to watch a game between Regina and Winnipeg St. John's. Regina won the game by a score of 9-1 and

. . . post game discussion, heard as the jubilant Saskatchewan fans took the blankets back to the beds, the cars and the horses, was that Regina had quite an edge on the play, that the Regina amateurs were better than the Winnipeg amateurs, and the Regina Americans were better than the Winnipeg Americans.<sup>50</sup>

Football was being actively promoted in the West. By 1932, night football, radio broadcasts of football games and large scoreboards were in regular use. To make the Western follower of football more familiar with the new faces and to create interest, the Winnipeg St. John's team announced the first quarter of their first game over the loudspeaking system at the park. Russ Rebholz, from the University of Wisconsin, was the St. John's coach, while the coach of the Winnipeg Rugby Club was Carl Cronin, a former Notre Dame player.

The trend toward professionalism was temporarily halted in the East when it was announced, in early November, that two players of the Ottawa Rough Riders, Wally Masters and Olaf "Swede" Carlsten, were suspended by the Interprovincial Union on charges of professionalism. Both players were from the University of Pennsylvania and both, it was discovered, had played professional baseball prior to their coming to Canada. When confronted with the charge of professionalism, both stated that they were under the impression that "professionals in one sport were

---

<sup>50</sup> Winnipeg Free Press, November 9, 1932.





allowed in Canada to play as amateurs in another".<sup>51</sup>

Jim McCaffrey, the manager of the Ottawa club, was responsible for the fact that Masters was in Ottawa. He enrolled Masters in a French course at the University of Ottawa and introduced Masters to the Ottawa coach, Dave McCann, an individual who, it appears, was not overly fond of Americans. Masters eventually played for Ottawa and played exceptionally well. Aside from his playing ability, Masters might have pioneered, in Canada, the use of a square-toed football shoe for place kickers. When Masters and Carlsten were suspended, McCaffrey was requested to report to a special meeting of the "Big Four". The meeting was to be held in Hamilton under the chairmanship of the president of the Union, Seppi DuMoulin.

As always, though, Jim had an "explanation". He told DuMoulin that it was all "an honest mistake". The two Americans, he said, knew they were semi-pros, but they thought the rules in Canada were like those in England. Pros and amateurs could play together but you come out a different gate. "There was a big argument of course", said McCaffrey, "but finally we were chastised and fined. Masters and Carlsten were ruled ineligible, but Wally came back next year to coach us."<sup>52</sup>

The Ontario Union also instigated investigations against two members of the Sarnia Imperials. "Rocky" Parsaca and Mel Malloy were the two players being investigated, but all charges were subsequently dropped. As a result of the controversy, reports came from two points, that an amendment would be proposed to the A.A.U. of C., to allow professionals and amateurs to play together. In Ottawa, McCaffrey said an

---

<sup>51</sup>Winnipeg Free Press, November 9, 1932.

<sup>52</sup>Jack Kinsella, "Jimmy McCrafty the Cunning Irishman". Official Souvenir Program, 1959 Grey Cup., p. 32.





appeal would be launched, while in Winnipeg, James I. Morkin, the President of the Canadian Amateur Athletic Union, said that he understood that such a motion would have the support of the Alberta branch of the A.A.U. of C. The controversy, however, soon subsided after the suspensions were announced.

The Grey Cup game of 1932 was played between the Regina Roughriders and the Hamilton Tigers. Hamilton had defeated the Sarnia Imperials by a 15-11 score and then proceeded to defeat the University of Toronto team by a score of 9-3. Regina defeated the Winnipeg representatives, St. John's, by a score of 9-1 and the Calgary Altomahs by a score of 30-2. Hamilton Tigers defeated the Regina team with a powerful display of running, by a 25-6 score.

As the end of the year approached, it was announced that several promoters were interested in the formation of a professional football league. Among the promoters were Leo Dandurand of Montreal, Tommy Gorman of Ottawa and Lionel Conacher of Toronto. "Professional football is going ahead by leaps and bounds in the United States and we intend to have a shot at it",<sup>53</sup> Conacher stated.

Conacher did, in fact, organize the first outright professional team in Canada. Named after its sponsor, the Cross and Blackwell Chefs played against teams from Rochester and Buffalo. People came to the Chef's games to see Charley and Lionel Conacher play, and, in their first game against Rochester, a gathering of 13,000 spectators was in attendance.

Whether it was the prospect of competition from Conacher's team or the fact that many good American ball players, who happened to need a

---

<sup>53</sup>Winnipeg Free Press, December 10, 1932.



job, were readily available, the Interprovincial Union took a sharp turn in the direction of professionalism in 1933.

The Toronto Argonauts hired an American, Lew Hayman, as coach and their lineup also included two other Americans, Andy Mullen and Frank Tindall. The Montreal team had three Americans, while Ottawa, which was coached by Wally Masters, had a total of five American players. The situation regarding the importation of football players did not escape unnoticed as evidenced by the following:

Believe it or not, football was once the most amateur of all sports in the Dominion and the finger of suspicion was seldom pointed in its direction. Cupidity, the desire to win at any cost and the coming of the forward pass have, however, made a vast difference. The Big Four clubs have become the main offenders in ignoring the rules. Are they to be allowed to do as they please? The Montreal and Ottawa clubs are chiefly to blame and they were the advocates of the introduction of the forward pass and all because they couldn't win titles under the Canadian code. Had the pass been adopted and the United States players barred, the obnoxious conditions that exist at the present time, would not have been possible. The abuses now are many and they are bound to increase.<sup>54</sup>

Much of the controversy at Ottawa revolved around Abe Eliowitz, a former captain of the Michigan State team. While Eliowitz was in Ottawa, a newspaper story from New York stated that Eliowitz had signed a contract to play football professionally with the Brooklyn Dodgers. The adverse publicity which followed caused the A.A.U. of C. to state that all teams which played against Ottawa, would be deprived of their amateur standing. This caused Charles B. Snelling, the president of the Ottawa club, to comment that he was not clear on the reason for the stand taken by the A.A.U. of C., adding that ". . . the Amateur Union

---

<sup>54</sup>Toronto Globe, September 7, 1933.





has no control over the Big Four, its players or amateur standing".<sup>55</sup>

The Ottawa Football Club decided to send a letter to the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States. They requested, from the Union, that notification of Eliowitz's amateur standing in the United States be sent to the football team. The result was that the A.A.U. of the U.S.A. sent a telegram which stated that Eliowitz was an amateur in good standing with the United States amateur authorities. The situation was still not resolved, however, for it was later announced by J.H. Crocker, president of the A.A.U. of C., that he had "recommended to the Ontario and Quebec branches that no cards be issued to players of the Interprovincial Rugby Union teams".<sup>56</sup> The recommendation, however was too late. The Ottawa players had already been granted amateur cards, whereupon they stated that they had proven their amateur standing and that it was up to the other teams in the Interprovincial Union to do the same.

Hamilton was unscathed by the criticism. The Tigers, as part of the Hamilton Amateur Athletic Association, seemed firm in their amateur convictions. A Hamilton official stated:

Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto are treading on dangerous ground by bringing those U.S. stars into this country. They are giving the Interprovincial Union a black eye. Hamilton fans can rest assured, for the Tigers will never be guilty of any move that will even suggest professionalism. We'd sooner pull away from the Union than see amateurism defeated and that's exactly what we'll do if we can prove anything against the other clubs.<sup>57</sup>

---

<sup>55</sup> Toronto Globe, September 14, 1933.

<sup>56</sup> Toronto Globe, September 21, 1933.

<sup>57</sup> Toronto Globe, October 12, 1933.





Further independence from the other Unions was displayed in 1933 by the Interprovincial Union. The Big Four decided to schedule a two game total point series between Toronto and Montreal in order to decide that Union's championship. It was a unilateral decision and it was thought by many observers that it was made necessary because of the rising costs as a result of the importation of Americans.

Because of this arbitrary decision on the part of the Interprovincial Union, the Globe stated, that "they have served indirect notice that they are a power unto themselves and they are not really concerned about the national series and that financial gain means more to the clubs than does the winning of the Grey Cup".<sup>58</sup> It appeared that the Intercollegiate Union shared the Globe's opinion. The University of Toronto, winners of the Intercollegiate championship, declined to enter the C.R.U. final series. For the first time, in Grey Cup competition, the West was directed to play a semi-final game against the winner of the Montreal-Toronto contests. The winner of the semi-final game would meet Sarnia in the Grey Cup game of 1933.

Winnipeg's road to the western championship had been a difficult one. In 1933, the St. John's team and the Winnipeg Rugby Club merged. The result was that Winnipeg had one team and no league in which to play. New colors of Blue and Gold were adopted and the name of the Winnipeg Rugby Club was retained. Carl Cronin was named coach while Russ Rebholz was in charge of the backfield and Greg Kabat was the line coach. As an alternative to the lack of a league in which to play, the Winnipeg team

---

<sup>58</sup>Toronto Globe, November 14, 1933.



played a schedule of exhibition games against American colleges in neighboring Minnesota and North Dakota. The games with the American universities served not only to provide Winnipeg with exhibition games, it also provided the westerners with valuable information on promising American football players. Many of the future players for the Winnipeg team were to come from this same area, known as the "Swede belt", of the United States.

Regina was defeated by a score of 11-1 and Winnipeg eliminated the Calgary team by a score of 15-1. In the semi-final game, however, the Toronto Argonauts defeated the Winnipeg team by a score of 13-0.

In the Grey Cup final game, the Argonauts and the Sarnia Imperials waged a bitter struggle in poor weather conditions. The game was a contest between two of the finest kickers in the game--Ab Box of the Argonauts and Hugh "Bummer" Stirling of the Sarnia Imperials. Toronto defeated Sarnia by the score of 4-3 in spite of Stirling's fine kicking and the excellent running of Norm Perry of the Imperials.

The rules changes in 1933 had been very few. The size remained the same but a change was made in the regulation pertaining to the ball. The change stated that it was preferred that the ball was made in the British Empire. During that same year, the Toronto Argonauts appeared with all white helmets which had been specially painted. McGill and the University of Toronto also had painted helmets; McGill's were red and Varsity's were blue. Besides helping the spectator to further identify a particular team, the helmets were also particularly helpful to the quarterback. Many times the helmet would be the only means of identifying a potential receiver.

In 1934, the influx of Americans into the Canadian game continued. Johnny Metras, from the University of Detroit, arrived in Toronto to play with





the St. Michael's College entry in the O.R.F.U. Metras, who played snap, turned down a tryout contract with the Detroit Lions which, if he had made the team, would have paid him \$4500.00 for the season. He chose, instead, to accept '\$100.00 to keep me in cigarettes and a math teaching job'.<sup>59</sup> In Regina, a number of new imports turned up in that city. Among them were Pierce, Kirk, Olson, Walker and Atkins. Carl Cronin left Winnipeg for Hamilton to inquire about the coaching job in Hamilton. Lew Hayman also inquired about the Hamilton position but the job was awarded to a young graduate of Cornell University, Johnny Ferraro. As well as a job with the Royal Connaught Hotel as an assistant comptroller, Ferraro was also paid the sum of \$2000.00 for coaching and playing with the Tigers.<sup>60</sup>

Hayman returned to Toronto and Cronin made his way to Calgary, where he coached that city's entry in the Western Canada Rugby Union. The C.R.U. meeting of 1934 decided that the Grey Cup game of that year would be held in the West. It was further decided that teams who were champions of their union and who declined to continue to compete in the Dominion championship series would be fined \$300.00.

A further change was introduced in the 1934 season--a change which was to cause confusion for many years. The C.R.U. decided to introduce the horn into football. Only the umpire and the linesman would have a horn. The referee still had his whistle. The idea behind the horn was that, on plays where an infraction had taken place, the horn would be

---

<sup>59</sup> John P. Metras, A Conversation with the Writer, 1959.

<sup>60</sup> Jimmy Simpson, An Interview with the Writer, 1968.





sounded to notify the referee of such an infraction. Play was not supposed to stop as a result of the horn, but, in effect, it did stop. The players appeared to be so conditioned to stopping whenever they heard a whistle that they did similarly when they heard the horn. The 1934 meeting also passed a rule regarding kickoffs. Previously, if the ball did not travel five yards or if it went into touch, and if this happened twice in succession, the ball would be awarded to the opponents at the fifty yard line. The new rule stated that a ten yard penalty would be imposed after the first offense. A further ten yard penalty would be imposed after the second consecutive occurrence. If the ball went into touch a third time, or did not travel the necessary five yards in the direction of the opponents, the opposing team would scrimmage the ball at the fifty-five yard line.

It was also decided at the same meeting, to reinstate "Red" Tellier, the Montreal snap who had been suspended for life after an attack on George Gilhooly of Regina in the 1931 Grey Cup game.

Football in Canada seemed to be gaining in popularity everywhere, but particularly in the West. In Winnipeg, the Free Press started, on September 13, 1934, to publish a series of articles entitled "What to Look for to Enjoy Rugby". There seemed to be a sense of satisfaction that the rules seemed to be more "western" each year, as evidenced by the following:

. . . The new Canadian rugby rule book provides some slight reward for officials of the Manitoba and other western unions who have battled for so long and so assiduously for progressive changes in the playing code. Every year sees the adoption by the moleskin moguls who comprise the C.R.U. rules committee, of some change that has been advocated by the Prairies two years earlier.<sup>61</sup>

---

<sup>61</sup>Winnipeg Free Press, September 1, 1934.



In the East, the Intercollegiate Union made the formal announcement that it was "withdrawing from the playdowns of the C.R.U. but would have playdowns of its own between the first and second place teams for the college title".<sup>62</sup> There was conjecture that the reason behind the withdrawal was the loss of time which would result if an Intercollegiate team had to travel to the West in order to play in the Grey Cup game. The more plausible reason, however, seemed to be that the Intercollegiate teams no longer wished to compete against teams which were laden with imports.

Not everyone was in agreement as to the desirability of American imports participating in Canadian football. John DeGruchy, the president of the O.R.F.U., stated at the meeting of the Toronto branch of the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada that

. . . the time has passed when the presence of various United States players on Canadian teams could be regarded as a desire for those gridiron artists to engage in games. If such were not the case and the imported stars were securing positions because of their playing ability, then it was a matter for the authorities because there were Canadian players of merit who were being denied desired employment.<sup>63</sup>

It came as a great surprise to the Westerners that the decision to hold the Grey Cup game in the West in 1934 was not carried out. A special meeting of the C.R.U. on October 18 reversed the earlier decision and unanimously voted to hold the game in the East once again. The reason given was that the Intercollegiate and the Interprovincial Unions "do not see their way clear to go West and the O.R.F.U. was

---

<sup>62</sup>Winnipeg Free Press, October 16, 1934.

<sup>63</sup>Ibid.





unable to declare themselves, as only one team in that union might possibly be able to make the trip West".<sup>64</sup> The West was dismayed by the whole proceedings in general, and by the C.R.U. in particular. Everything appeared to be heavily weighted in favor of the East. The C.R.U. rules committee was described by Joe Ryan as a "family compact whose composition had never varied in 10 years".<sup>65</sup>

The Western Union met in Vancouver, the site of the 1934 western championship game between Regina Roughriders and the Vancouver Meralomas, to discuss the situation. The result was that a number of rule changes were made by the Western Union. These changes were to be put into effect in 1935, regardless of the decision of the C.R.U. It was decided by the Western Union to allow interference for five yards, by both linemen and backfielders. Unlimited substitution was also to be allowed and single points could only be scored when the ball landed or touched an opponent in the end zone. An important change was made in the rule governing the forward pass. The new rule called for the use of the "pro" pass, a name which had its origin in the United States. In American college rules, the pass had to be thrown from a point 5 yards behind the line of scrimmage, but in American professional football it could be thrown from any point behind the line of scrimmage. It was this American professional rule which was adopted by the Western Union for the 1935 season.

Prior to the Western Union meeting, Regina had defeated Winnipeg by a score of 8-0 at Regina on November 3, and then proceeded to meet

---

<sup>64</sup>Winnipeg Free Press, October 19, 1934.

<sup>65</sup>Joe Ryan, An Interview With the Writer, April, 1968.





the Vancouver Meralomas for the Western Championship. The Meralomas had defeated the University of Alberta by 5-0 and 8-6 scores at Vancouver on November 1st and 3rd. In the two games held in Vancouver on November 10 and 12, Regina defeated the Meralomas by scores of 22-2 and 7-2.

In the east, the Sarnia Imperials continued to display uncommon power for an O.R.F.U. team. After defeating the Hamilton Tigers of the Interprovincial Union by a score of 11-4, Sarnia met and defeated the Regina team in the Grey Cup game of 1934, by a score of 20-12. The Imperials had some outstanding football players in its lineup. "Bummer" Stirling was thought to be perhaps the best kicker in the country and Norm Perry was considered by many to be the best halfback in Canada. Their coach, Art Masucci, was considered by many to be another reason for the outstanding success that this team, from a tiny southwestern Ontario town, was enjoying. Another reason was the fine play of an American from Kansas, Orm Beach. Beach had been in Canada for a year prior to moving to Sarnia in 1934. He was a giant of a man compared to the other football players. He stood an inch over six feet and weighed 240 pounds. His physique was such that, as a student at the University of Kansas, he was described by Dr. James Naismith, the famous Canadian physical educator and inventor of basketball, as an example of a perfect man. Powerful on offense or defence, Beach was a driving force with the Sarnia Imperials until his untimely accidental death on September 20, 1938.

A nine game schedule was put into effect for the 1935 season in the Interprovincial Union. It was the first change in the schedule of that league since its formation in 1907. It was no doubt dictated by the rising costs in the operation of the individual teams as a result of



the importation of American football players. The year 1935 was to be a year of many firsts in Canadian football. The depression had almost run its course and throughout all leagues there was much optimism.

The C.R.U., however, turned down all of the West's rule proposals. The only concession made to the West was that, on kicks to the dead ball line, on which a point had been scored without the defensive team having the opportunity to run the ball out of the goal area, the ball would be scrimmaged by the team scored upon, at their 40 yard line instead of the 25 yard line.

By 1935, teams were finding it easier to defend against the offense. Certain defensive "keys" were being used effectively to lessen the impact of the forward pass. Since the C.R.U. rules stipulated that the passer must be at least 5 yards behind the line of scrimmage when the pass was thrown the quarterback seldom lined up "beneath" the centre as he did in the "T" formation of the modern era. When he was directly "beneath" the centre, the passing was done, in most cases, by another member of the backfield--probably the flying wing. The flying wing would line up one yard behind the line of scrimmage and a yard away from the outside wing. Prior to the snap of the ball, he would run towards the quarterback, all the while gaining depth away from the line of scrimmage. When he was in a position 5-7 yards deep and in lateralling distance from the quarterback, the ball would be lateralled to him. At that point the flying wing had the option of passing or running the ball. The defensive man knew almost immediately if it were to be a pass. Because of the three yard interference regulation, only offensive players who were about to receive a pass could be more than three yards down the field, past the line of scrimmage. Once an offensive player passed the three yard limit,





the defensive player recognized the ensuing play as a forward pass or a kick. The year 1935, however, provides an insight into the problem of amateur-professional relationships and also gives an indication of the relative importance attached to these two concepts by the East and the West.

In the West, the Winnipeg team made use of the information that it had acquired through its schedule of exhibition games in 1933 and 1934. Joe Ryan, the Winnipeg general manager, was financed by a group of Winnipeg businessmen and journeyed into the "Swede belt" of Minnesota and the Dakotas. He returned with seven Americans, who, added to the two from 1934, made a total of nine American players that Winnipeg would use in 1935.

Fritz Hanson, from North Dakota State University, was hired for the sum of \$125.00 per game. Bob Fritz, from Concordia College was hired as the coach and quarterback, for the sum of \$900.00 for the season. The other seven players, Bud Marquardt, Joe Perpich, Bert Oja, Herb Peschel, Nick Pagones, Russ Rebholz and Greg Kabat, received \$500.00 each for the season. The salary budget for the 16 games that Winnipeg played in 1935 was \$7400.00. The total budget, including salaries, equipment, transportation and all other costs, was \$15,000.00.<sup>66</sup> There were no contracts signed. The standard C.R.U. card, which each team used to bind players to its club, was the only piece of paper which required a signature. All the Winnipeg agreements were verbal. In addition to the salaries, each player was promised employment in Winnipeg.

---

<sup>66</sup>Ibid.





As far as anyone could tell, these men were amateurs. Nothing to indicate otherwise was signed. The residence rule, which was such an obstacle in the Interprovincial Union, was not an impediment in the least. In the West, the residence rule required that a player had to be a continuous resident of "the city or town to which his club belongs since the first day of September in that playing year".<sup>67</sup> Since all teams were practicing in the West by the first of September, because of the early start of football season due to the weather, the residence rule, as a means of curbing professionalism in the West was impotent.

The Sarnia Imperials made a tour of the West in 1935. With relative ease, the Grey Cup champions of 1934 defeated the Calgary Bronks twice and Regina and Saskatoon once each. When, in the Calgary game, Carl Cronin attempted to play for the Bronks, the Sarnia team walked off the field. The fear was still very real, particularly among the Eastern teams, of losing one's amateur status.

In anticipation of the exhibition game with Sarnia, as well as the opening of the new football season, the Winnipeg Football Club arranged with the city of Winnipeg to have the week commencing with Saturday, September 7, 1935, declared Rugby Week. A parade with floats and bands and stagecoaches was featured.

. . . Lou Adelman and Bob Fritz have offered to stop the parade and sing a duet for everyone who will purchase a season ticket. Throughout the next week, the Blue and Gold colors will be displayed from the windows of all the leading merchants, while the commercial girls club has undertaken to pin ribbons on all good looking males in Winnipeg. "Boost Football, Boost Winnipeg, Boost Manitoba. Be a booster and help put all three of them where they belong, right on top of the heap" is the Winnipeg club's slogan.<sup>68</sup>

---

<sup>67</sup> Constitution of the Western Canada Rugby Union, 1935.

<sup>68</sup> Winnipeg Free Press, September 7, 1935.



The parade was a huge success and Sydney Halter, the chairman in charge of ticket sales, reported that he was being kept busy with the demand for tickets.

A record paid attendance of 3800 spectators saw Winnipeg defeat Sarnia in the exhibition game by a score of 3-1. It was front page news in the Winnipeg Free Press. The victory, played at Osborne Stadium on September 21, 1935, was the first one for a Western senior team over an Eastern senior team. It was also the first time that Sarnia, the Grey Cup champions of 1934, had been defeated in fourteen games.

In the East, the Ottawa Rough Riders were again having difficulties with amateur officials and the residence rule. The president of the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada had ordered an investigation into allegations that Roy Berry of Ottawa was really Bohn Hilliard, a former outstanding performer with the University of Texas football team. The president threatened that if the allegations were true, not only would all the members of the Ottawa team be suspended, but all of the teams which had played against Ottawa during the season would also be suspended from the A.A.U. of C. Fry, the president, further stated that no team should play against Ottawa until the charges were investigated and proven or disproven. The whole of the Interprovincial Union and also Queen's University, which had played an exhibition game against Ottawa, stood to lose their amateur cards as a result of the incident.

On November 21, the Ottawa branch of the A.A.U. of C. "suspended every man who played in the Interprovincial Union this season and every man who played exhibition games against the Big Four team".<sup>69</sup> It was

---

<sup>69</sup> Winnipeg Free Press, November 22, 1935.





only through the intervention of the president of the A.A.U. of C. that the suspension was lifted.

According to the regulations of the Interprovincial Union, the A.A.U. of C. had reason to suspend the Ottawa club. Hilliard had been recommended to McCaffrey, the Ottawa general manager, after a particular good game in which Hilliard almost singlehandedly defeated Notre Dame. Hilliard agreed to come to Ottawa for \$900.00 but he admitted to McCaffrey that he had played professional baseball in the International league.

"That ruled him out" is the way McCaffrey tells it. "Football was very strict about anyone playing pro, or even semi-pro. But I told him if he knew of anyone else to have him get in touch with me." McCaffrey subsequently received a telegram from a "friend" of Hilliard's, Roy Berry by name. Berry said he would come under the same conditions. What happened of course, was that Hilliard, who was a close friend of Berry's, merely exchanged identities, even to the point of papers and clothing, and headed for Ottawa.<sup>70</sup>

When the Berry affair subsided in the East, another controversy appeared. Queen's University decided to enter the challenge for the Grey Cup. When told by the C.R.U. that they could not challenge because of the Intercollegiate Union's decision in 1934, Queen's persisted. The Hamilton Tigers, winners of the Interprovincial Union, threatened to withdraw from the C.R.U. series if Queen's were not allowed to challenge. The C.R.U. resolved the situation by allowing Queen's to enter the competition as an individual team, not as a member of the Intercollegiate Union. Hamilton easily defeated the Intercollegiate team by a score of 44-4. Although, officially, the University of

---

<sup>70</sup> Jack Kinsella, op. cit. p. 31.





Toronto team of 1932 was the last official representative of the Intercollegiate Union in the C.R.U. series for the Canadian Championship, most records show that the Intercollegiate Union competed in the C.R.U. series of 1935. In reality, however, the team from Queen's represented only that institution and not the Intercollegiate Union.

The Hamilton Tigers seemed to have a powerful team. After a slow start, the team, coached and quarterbacked by Johnny Ferraro, was, by the end of the 1935 season, considered to be one of the strongest to represent that city. The mainstay of the Hamilton team was still Brian Timmis. His performance over many years had prompted Ted Reeve to write a poem about Timmis' exploits on the football field. The poem which first appeared in the Toronto Telegram, was:

This Timmis gent is a grizzly bear  
When he leads the Tigers from their lair.  
Just try and stop him if you dare!  
The Old Man of the Mountain.

With his big, right fist, and his glittering eyes,  
He outplayed guys like you and I,  
And he still can hit that line on high.  
The Old Man of the Mountain.

In sixty-seven years, or more,  
When the Tigers need a major score,  
The Tiger fans will rise and roar,  
For the Old Man of the Mountain.

And he'll tuck his beard inside his sash,  
And hand some foe a friendly bash,  
And hit the line for a ten yard crash,  
That grand Old Man of the Mountain!<sup>71</sup>

The Tigers went on to defeat the Sarnia Imperials by a 22-3 score and prepared to meet the West in the Grey Cup game of 1935.

---

<sup>71</sup>Toronto Telegram, October 22, 1934.



In the West, the Winnipeg Football Club earned the right to enter the Grey Cup game by defeating the Regina Roughriders by a score of 13-6. Winnipeg next defeated the Calgary Bronks, who had defeated the Vancouver Meralomas 14-0, by a score of 7-0.

The Winnipeg team left for the East three weeks early in anticipation of better practice conditions. While staying in Detroit, they sent "scouts" to watch the Hamilton team play against Queen's and Sarnia. Ryan stated that if Winnipeg did not win the Grey Cup game, it would be the last time a team from Winnipeg would compete for the Canadian title. His reasons were based on the fact that

. . . the West is moving ahead rapidly with its football. We're swinging more to the American code each year and the customers are with us. Our season is much shorter than in the East and we're just about fed up with efforts to keep pace with the authority flaunted over us by the Canadian Rugby Union.<sup>72</sup>

The game, played in Hamilton on December 7, 1935, proved to be an historic one. The Winnipeg team defeated the Hamilton Tigers by the score of 18-12. It was the first victory for a team from the West in a Grey Cup game since the East-West contest started in 1921. Much of the credit for the Winnipeg victory was deservedly given to Fritz Hanson, the swift North Dakotan. Hanson's remarkable efforts along with those of his teammates inspired the following poem in the December 9 edition of the Winnipeg Free Press:

Out where the flashing Hanson dashes,  
Out where Ed James and Kabat crashes,  
Out where Bob Fritz directs the play,  
Out where Oja knocks them the other way,  
Out where the Grey Cup is come to stay,  
That's where the West begins.<sup>73</sup>

---

<sup>72</sup> Winnipeg Free Press, December 4, 1935.

<sup>73</sup> Winnipeg Free Press, December 9, 1935.





The West benefited greatly from the Winnipeg victory. The whole of the West seemingly adopted the Winnipeg team and identified with the winners. The renewed enthusiasm prompted the Winnipeg and Regina teams to convince the Calgary football authorities that a new Union should be formed. Called the Western Interprovincial Football Union, and formed in 1936, it was composed of teams in Winnipeg, Regina and Calgary. The Calgary team, however, reserved the right to compete in the Alberta Rugby Union as well. With this arrangement, the Calgary team could still challenge for championship honors even if it lost all its games in the new union. It would only have to defeat the University of Alberta team in order to represent the Alberta Union in the quest for the Grey Cup. The championship of the new union was to be decided by a playoff between the first and second place finishers in the three team league.

At the C.R.U. annual meeting of 1936, it was decided to extend the residence rule to March 1, 1936. The new regulation was aimed specifically at the American players. It was hoped that a two-fold effect would result from the extension of the residence rule. It was first hoped that the number of Americans coming to Canada would be reduced. It was further hoped that the increase of professionalism would be checked. The residence rule stated that, in order to compete in the Grey Cup game, and any other games under the jurisdiction of the C.R.U., the player must reside in Canada "for at least one year prior to October first, of the current playing season. For the purpose of 1936 competition, the date of required continuous residence shall be March 1, 1936."<sup>74</sup> The regulation was first moved by W.C. Foulds

---

<sup>74</sup> Constitution of the C.R.U., 1936.





and approved by all the C.R.U. delegates, with the exception of the three from the West.

In making the motion, Foulds declared that Canadian players had been overlooked long enough. "There has been trafficking in U.S. stars and I think that it has not done our game any good."<sup>75</sup> The Western delegates, Joe Ryan and John Bannerman, urged a one year delay in making the new regulation effective. Ryan's main concern was that Eastern clubs would start raiding the players of the Winnipeg team, since they would all be eligible for the coming season. Bannerman thought it would be a good idea to postpone the ruling so that some of the smaller centres contemplating starting football teams in the West could bring in "an American or two just so they could get going".<sup>76</sup>

There were also some slight modifications in the rules during 1936. It was decided that a forward pass which was incomplete inside the opponents' 25 yard line would carry a reduced penalty. Whereas, previously, the passing team lost the ball, in 1936 it was to lose only one down. If the forward pass were thrown from inside the 25 yard line and was incomplete within the defending team's goal area, loss of the ball was the result, and the non-passing team would be awarded possession at their own 25 yard line. The interference rule was broadened also. Interference behind the line of scrimmage for backfielders only was allowed. This meant that a half-back now had to learn to "pass protect"--a factor which encouraged the further

---

<sup>75</sup>Toronto Globe, March 2, 1936.

<sup>76</sup>Ibid.



importation of American players. The Americans were already exposed to this rule in their game and therefore could more easily adapt to it in the Canadian game than could the native Canadians, who had never been exposed to blocking. In effect, the trend towards the backfields of American players, which existed in 1968 with most teams in the Canadian Football League, started in 1936. One further rule change was made in 1936. It was decided to allow the team, upon which a field goal had been scored, the option of scrimmaging the ball on their own forty yard line or kicking it off as before.

It appeared, early in 1936, that the reversal in the trend towards professionalism was in effect. The Big Four announced in the East, on September 29, that eleven players would be barred from playing in the Interprovincial Union in 1936. All were Americans. None met the Union's residence requirements--"January first in case of Americans who had not previously played here and June first for others".<sup>77</sup> The players declared ineligible were: Montreal Indians, Coach Johnny Ferraro, Pat Ryan, Oke Olson; Hamilton Tigers, Truman Painton, Jim Faust, Jerry Brock; Ottawa Rough Riders, Tony Rosso, Stan O'Neil, Lou Newton; Toronto Argonauts, Frank Tindall, Clarence Burt.<sup>78</sup>

The suspensions, however, were ignored to some extent by some of the clubs. Montreal Indians persisted in using Olson, the former Regina player, in a game on September 30 against the Hamilton Tigers. The result of the Montreal club's violation of the governing body's edict was a nine hour Interprovincial Union executive meeting. The Union

---

<sup>77</sup> Regina Leader-Post, September 30, 1936. <sup>78</sup> Ibid.





"passed a vote of censure on the Montreal club"<sup>79</sup> and Montreal apologized for its actions. The Ottawa Rough Riders also ignored the ruling. They played with Tony Rosso and Stan O'Neil in a game against the Argonauts. Ottawa lost the game by a score of 14-0.

In the West, the new league functioned smoothly. Winnipeg took a two point advantage into the first game of the "two game total points to count" series against Regina. Winnipeg had outscored Regina 33-31 during the regular season in the four games played against each other. As a result, Winnipeg was allowed to carry a two point advantage into the Western Interprovincial Union's championship series. In Regina, the first game was won by Winnipeg by a 7-4 score. In the deciding game, played at Winnipeg's Osborne Stadium, Regina defeated Winnipeg by a score of 20-5. Regina, therefore, won the series and the league championship by the combined score of 24-14. A highlight of the second contest was a 101 yard return from an intercepted pass in the end zone, by Chappie O'Connor of Regina. The interception, on Winnipeg's 100 yard long field, was really illegal according to the rules, but being the last play of the game, and in all the resulting confusion, the referee allowed the score to stand. Regina then disposed of the Calgary Bronks, who competed as winners of the Alberta Union, by a score of 8-1. The game itself actually was won by Regina by a 3-1 score but Regina had a surplus of 5 points from the regular season meetings between the two teams, thus producing the 8-1 score.

---

<sup>79</sup>Regina Leader-Post, October 8, 1936.





The winning of the Western Canada Rugby Union Championship by Regina created problems. Regina had five Americans, including playing coach Dean Griffing, who were not eligible, according to the C.R.U. rules, for the Grey Cup game. The situation was sufficiently important that the president of the C.R.U., a westerner from Saskatoon--E.A. Hardy--asked the C.R.U. executive to postpone its residence rule for a one year period. Past president John Degruchy denied Hardy's suggestion and in so doing stated that the Rough Riders were basically an American team. Playing against Regina in a Canadian championship game, he said, would be similar to playing against a team from any American city. He went on to say:

We have nothing against the individual players. We think them to be fine men but they should first prove that they intend to become Canadian citizens before being allowed to compete in finals for championships of this country.<sup>80</sup>

The controversy raged in the West. Not only was the C.R.U. criticized but also the Western Canada Rugby Union. The Regina team at first maintained that they would not travel East to play in the Grey Cup game without its full team. The president of the Regina team, N.J. "Piffles" Taylor, notified Stan Pepler, president of the W.C.R.U., to that effect. As a result, the W.C.R.U. announced that the Winnipeg team would be sent to represent the West in Regina's stead. This was probably done for two reasons. Firstly, many thought that Winnipeg had the better team and they were defending Grey Cup champions. Secondly, there was a \$250.00 fine if a union withdrew from the C.R.U. series. The W.C.R.U. decision was

---

<sup>80</sup> Regina Leader-Post, November 13, 1936.



greeted with a storm of protest in Regina. The executive of the Roughriders overruled Taylor's decision and promptly announced that Regina would challenge for the Grey Cup without its ineligible players.<sup>81</sup>

The Roughriders sent a telegram to the C.R.U. stating that they would compete. The C.R.U. replied that since they did not have the approval of their governing union, Regina could not compete for the Grey Cup. The telegram from the C.R.U. was sent to E.A. Hardy by the Secretary for the C.R.U., R. Hewitson. At the same time, Hewitson stated that he had received a telegram from Pepler, stating that the W.C.R.U. had withdrawn its challenge.<sup>82</sup> The telegram from Pepler was the result of a new vote, the second one taken by the W.C.R.U., on the weekend of December 4th and 5th. That vote decided that the Regina team should represent the West and the ineligible players should not be allowed to play. The sudden reversal by the W.C.R.U., after first deciding that Winnipeg should go, created a great outburst against the Western body. The president-elect of the W.C.R.U., A.M. Naismith, resigned because of that body's handling of the affair. J.M. Bannerman, third vice-president of the W.C.R.U., also resigned. Naismith made the reason for this resignation clear when he stated:

"I consider a second vote on the same question and the same set of facts unconstitutional and illegal." He especially protested that the second vote should have been taken after disclosing how the various governors had voted on the first vote.<sup>83</sup>

---

<sup>81</sup>Regina Leader-Post, December 2, 1936.

<sup>82</sup>Regina Leader-Post, December 4, 1936.

<sup>83</sup>Regina Leader-Post, December 7, 1936.





Other resignations followed. A.W. Mathews, president of the Alberta Union, resigned as did William McMahon and Dr. Sturdy of the British Columbia Union. The situation was finally resolved at a special meeting of the Regina Rough Riders' executive on Monday, December 6. A resolution was passed which stated:

Owing to the fact that our action in forcing the issue in the matter of a playoff for the Canadian championship has caused an upset in the Western Canada Union, we wish to withdraw our challenge.<sup>84</sup>

Regina's decision automatically took the Grey Cup from the West and it was awarded to Sarnia Imperials. Sarnia had defeated the Ottawa Rough Riders by a 26-20 score in a game described by many observers as the best football game which had been played to that time. It was the second Grey Cup victory for the Imperials in three years.

The controversy did result in an organizational change of the C.R.U. It had always been particularly galling to the westerners that the Eastern unions had more votes in the councils of the C.R.U. than did the Western unions. This, in itself, was enough to indicate to the West that the will of the East was being forced on the West, even in football. In 1937, the inequity of representations was removed. The new decision, calling for equal representation, had its roots in the West and was advanced at the meeting of the W.C.R.U. in 1936. At that meeting, A.M. Naismith went on to say that if the proposal for equal representation were turned down, the West would resign from the C.R.U. and run its own leagues.

---

<sup>84</sup>Regina Leader-Post, December 8, 1936.





The new formula for equal representation was achieved in a different way from Naismith's suggestion, but it was equally effective. The equal representation was achieved by "the simple expedient of affiliating two unions directly with the national organization".<sup>85</sup> The two new affiliates were the Western Interprovincial Union and the British Columbia Union. Both had only indirectly belonged to the C.R.U. through their membership in the Western Canada Union. The two other unions in the West were the W.C.R.U. and the Western Canada Intercollegiate Union. In the East, the four unions were: the Interprovincial, the Ontario, the Quebec and the Intercollegiate.

Again, there was a reluctance to change drastically, any rules in the C.R.U. The interference rule was altered to allow linemen to block behind the line of scrimmage. As insignificant as this rule appeared, however, it did permit a whole new style of play. Once again, because of the new style, the Canadian-born player found himself having to learn a whole new system of line play. Just as he was getting used to interfering in a forward fashion, he found himself having to learn "pass blocking". He also had to learn how to "pull out" of the line and "trap" an opponent or lead interference around the end of the line. This rule change, on the other hand, facilitated the transition to the Canadian game for the American players.

A further rule change was made which shortened the distance that a team was penalized for being off-side. Previously the

---

<sup>85</sup>Regina Leader-Post, March 1, 1937.



distance assessed was 10 yards, whereas, because of the change, it was reduced to 5 yards. A further change was made in the rule governing converts. For the 1937 season, it was decided that if, on an attempted convert by means of a pass, the intended receiver was interfered with, a single point would be awarded to the converting team. In addition to these rule changes, it was decided that, commencing in 1937, all twenty players who dressed for a C.R.U. contest would be allowed to play. Previously, only eighteen were allowed to play.

In the West, where a return to the C.R.U. rules had been in effect for the 1936 season, it was decided to return to the basic rules of 1935. The trend in that part of the country towards increased Americanization of the rules continued after the one year interruption. For the 1937 season, the "pro" pass was re-introduced and a ten yard interference limit for all players was in effect. The West also became the first body in Canada to restrict the number of imports who could play for a team. Starting in 1937, eight American imports were allowed on each western team.

Winnipeg added Art Stevenson from Nebraska, Ole Midgarten from Nebraska, and Martin Gainor from North Dakota. Regina, again coached by Dean Griffing, was without Fritz Falgren and lost Chappie O'Connor to the Montreal Indians. In Calgary, Carl Cronin's Bronks had four players from Washington's Gonzaga University; Hurd, Higgins, Madden and Olson. Two other additions were: Johnny Rosano from Washington State and Don Lussier from Spokane.

The popularity of the football played in the West was evident. Attendance had risen to the point where crowds of five or six





thousand spectators were becoming the rule rather than the exception. In the East, attendances seemed to have fallen off. Some thought that it was due to the lack of a strong Intercollegiate league. Others felt that it was due to the lateness of the football season. Bill Hughes, who coached Ottawa in the 1936 season, was of the latter conviction. His solution was simple. If the season were started in September, he said, and two games each week were played under the lights, all would be well. Hughes mentioned that his approach would greatly strengthen each team financially. He went on to say:

. . . The expense of running a senior football club varies considerably according to the policy of the management. I would estimate that a minimum cost, covering training table, coaching, equipment, transportation, medicinal supplies, game expense--not breathing a word about player expenses--is from \$10,000.00 to \$12,000.00 a season.<sup>86</sup>

The Montreal Indians team of the Big Four was a prime example of why costs were increasing. It seemed that each year a well known player from the previous year made his way to the Montreal team from the city for which he starred. In 1931, Huck Welch had made his way from Hamilton. The Montreal team had, in 1937, Ferraro from Hamilton, Eliowitz from Ottawa and Olson and O'Connor from Regina. In order to raise funds, the Montreal team played an exhibition game against the St. Mary's College Rattlers from San Antonio, Texas. Montreal was defeated in the game, played under American rules, by a score of 31-16.

The playoffs started in the West at Winnipeg, on November 6, 1937. Calgary defeated Winnipeg by a score of 13-10 and took a 3 point lead into the next game which was to be played at Calgary

---

<sup>86</sup> Bill Hughes, "Bill Hughes Talks Football". Maclean's, October 15, 1937, p. 46.





on November 11. Calgary's two touchdowns were scored on forward passes thrown by Johnny Rosano, who played well despite having a broken nose. Rosano had fumbled a kick in the first quarter and was hit by Lou Mogul as both players dived for the ball. The nose was broken "when their helmets bumped together and the bird-cage protector worn by the Bomber did the damage".<sup>87</sup> In the second game, Winnipeg defeated the Bronks by a score of 9-1 to win the series by the total score of 19-14. A record number of people followed the game as a result of its being broadcast over the C.B.C. Radio West network.

Winnipeg, by this time known as the Blue Bombers--after Joe Louis' epithet of the "Brown Bomber"--were the Western representatives again and waited for the East to finish its series. The series in the East was even more prolonged in 1937 because of the addition of the Quebec Rugby Union to the C.R.U. series. In the meeting between the Sarnia Imperials and the Montreal Westmounts of the Quebec Union, Sarnia defeated the new challengers by a score of 63-0. The Toronto Argonauts, however, proceeded to defeat the Imperials by a score of 10-6 to qualify to meet the Blue Bombers for the Grey Cup. The Argonauts defeated the Winnipeg team by the close score of 4-3, but, as Ted Reeve stated:

. . . It was hardly a satisfactory contest in which to settle a championship. The Winnipegs were under the disadvantage of strange rules, a foreign field and a long lay-off. In fact, the only way a Canadian championship can be settled fairly from now on would be to play the game with six and a half-yard interference, passes permissible two and a half yards behind the line, the game to be played on a November Wednesday afternoon in Port Arthur.<sup>88</sup>

---

<sup>87</sup> Regina Leader-Post, November 9, 1937.

<sup>88</sup> Ted Reeve, Op. Cit., p. 59.



After the game, Bob Fritz, the Winnipeg playing-coach, stated that he would never bring another team East for the Grey Cup game. As far as he was concerned, the final game should be abandoned until the rules were uniform throughout the country. Fritz's statement was ironically prophetic. He was not rehired by the Winnipeg team for the 1938 season. Fritz went to Edmonton and worked as a sportscaster with radio station C.J.C.A. and coached that city's new entry in the Western Interprovincial Football Union. With the Eskimos again in senior football, the W.I.F.U. became a four team league for the first time.

At the C.R.U. meeting of 1938, the complete rupture of East-West football relations was averted by the compromise solution of a problem which threatened to cause the demise of the East-West Grey Cup game. The man responsible for the compromise was Joe Ryan of Winnipeg.

The problem centred around a new resolution which was passed by the C.R.U. It stated that:

. . . in order to promote rugby football throughout Canada most effectively, a union desiring to enter C.R.U. competition must have throughout the current season adhered to the standard playing rules in the series in which it wishes to compete.<sup>89</sup>

The "standard playing rules" were, of course, the C.R.U. rules. From the C.R.U.'s point of view, it seemed that there were memories in that organization of the situation that prevailed when football was played by 14 man teams. Prior to 1921, the traditionalists were convinced

---

<sup>89</sup>Regina Leader-Post, February 28, 1938.





that theirs was the better game. The reformers were just as convinced that they were right. In 1938, the same situation prevailed. In 1938, however, the reformers of 1921 had become the traditionalists of 1938, and a new group of reformers, represented by the West, wanted change. Speaking in 1968, Ryan stated that he could not understand what the C.R.U. was complaining about.

Good exciting football was necessary in the West in order to sell tickets. The fans liked our type of football with the pro pass and the 10 yard interference. We went back to the C.R.U. rules after a year of interference but our fans didn't like it so we went back to the 1935 western rules. When we played in the Grey Cup, we played their rules. What were they belly-aching about? They had all the advantage. We had to change all our offense and restrict our blocking.<sup>90</sup>

A heated discussion followed the introduction of the proposal at the 1938 meeting. For two hours, the proposal was debated with Dr. Andy Kinsella of the Toronto Argonauts and Billy Foulds of the C.R.U. rules commission on the one side the Joe Ryan on the other. Professor Hardy and J.M. Bannerman gave moral support to Ryan, but it was the Winnipeg manager "who swung the delegates to vote for what many considered was a stay of execution".<sup>91</sup>

The "stay of execution" was a two year period of grace. It was decided that the various unions would have until 1940 to make their rules uniform with the C.R.U. If, during the 1940 season, a union did not play C.R.U. rules during its regularly scheduled games in its union, that union would not be allowed to challenge for the Grey Cup.

---

<sup>90</sup>Joe Ryan, op. cit.

<sup>91</sup>Regina Leader-Post, February 28, 1938.





During the 1938 season, two new teams were introduced into the Ontario Union. The Hamilton Panthers, who had been a weak team offering only token resistance to the Sarnia Imperials and Balmy Beaches, withdrew from the Ontario Union. A rumor was rampant at the time that both Sarnia and the Balmy Beach teams would leave the O.R.F.U. and seek affiliation with the Big Four. In an effort to provide opposition to the two strong teams, it was arranged for the Peterborough Orfuns and the Montreal Nationals to become members of the Ontario Union.

In the Big Four, Toronto, led by the three Stukus brothers, was a superior team. The Lew Hayman-coached team was too strong for its opposition. Ottawa suffered through the loss of retirements, while Montreal had lost half of its team to the O.R.F.U. entry. In Hamilton, the retirements of Eddie Wright, Huck Welch and the "Old Man of the Mountain", Brian Timmis, weakened that team.

In the West the new season, with the four team league, functioned smoothly. The City of Edmonton spent \$13,700.00 on the new Joseph A. Clarke Stadium to bring the seating capacity of the park up to 2,000. Winnipeg had a new coach, Reg Threlfall, from Purdue University. Threlfall coached Winnipeg to four consecutive Western championships and two Grey Cup victories in three appearances. Because of his coaching success, he acquired the descriptive title of "Demon Coach".

The Blue Bombers disposed of Regina and Calgary in the West, while in the East, the strong Argonauts defeated the Sarnia Imperials by the score of 25-8. Winnipeg previously had trained in Michigan, at Ann Arbor, while waiting for the Easterners to declare their



championship. They reasoned that the weather would be more conducive to practice in Michigan than it would be in Winnipeg. In 1937, however, an incident occurred which caused the Blue Bombers to train at Oakville, Ontario, in 1938. In 1937, Harry Sonshine, an Argonaut player who at the time was injured, went to Ann Arbor at a time when Winnipeg was practicing for the Grey Cup game. Borrowing a University of Michigan cardigan, Sonshine observed all the Winnipeg practices and even asked questions of the Winnipeg players about the differences between Canadian and American rules and what type of game the Canadian rules allowed for. In this way, Sonshine discovered a great deal about the Winnipeg team and reported it back to Hayman and the Argonauts. After the Winnipeg loss of 1937, the Sonshine escapade was made public and everybody thought it was quite humorous, except, of course, the Winnipeg team. As a result, when the team arrived at Oakville, just fifteen miles from Toronto, it was announced that the practices would be kept strictly secret from anyone not known by the Winnipeg team.

The residence rule again played havoc with the Western team. Imports Wayne Sheley and Russ Rebholz were declared ineligible because they had not been continuous residents of Canada from October of 1937. When Martin Gainor was also declared ineligible, a whole new controversy threatened to erupt. Gainor, who had played for Winnipeg in 1937 but was declared ineligible for the Grey Cup game of that year, had left Canada for a few months in order to return to the University of North Dakota in order to gain his degree in Physical Education. A telegram was sent to the C.R.U. by the chairman of the Winnipeg School Board, W.A. Cutty. It stated that Gainor had left the country in order to acquire a degree in anticipation of





obtaining a position with the Winnipeg School Board. Gainor was finally granted permission to play, although he was not declared eligible to play. The statement issued by secretary Hewitson said:

"The C.R.U. has granted Martin Gainor, Winnipeg football player, permission to play in the final game on December 10, 1938." It was significant to note that this statement did not declare Gainor eligible but merely grants him permission to play.<sup>92</sup>

The Grey Cup contest of 1938 attracted a record attendance of 18,778 spectators. For the first three quarters of the game, it appeared that Winnipeg would win the Cup for the West. The Argonauts, however, trailing by a score of 7-6 at the start of the fourth quarter, rallied and scored an unprecedented four touchdowns in the final quarter. The final score was 30-7 for the Argonauts. Three of the final four touchdowns were scored by an unheralded 20 year old from Barrie, Ontario, Buster "Red" Storey.

#### 1939 - 1945

In 1939, Canada was involved in the Second World War. Although the state of war was not officially declared until September 10, 1939, the threat appeared long before that date. Perhaps as a means of promoting enthusiasm for Britain, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth visited Canada in May of 1939. The visit indirectly aided football in Edmonton. Fifteen hundred additional seats were installed at Clarke Stadium for the Royal Visit, bringing the seating capacity to 3500.

In the same year, Clarke Stadium was equipped with floodlights thus ensuring that Edmonton could play the majority of its games at night. Ten seventy-foot wooden posts circled the field, thirty feet

---

<sup>92</sup>Regina Leader-Post, December 10, 1938.





removed from the playing area. Each post was crowned with a cluster of 1500 watt bulbs and the resultant effect was one of great satisfaction to all concerned. The cost of the lights, borne by the City of Edmonton, was \$5,500.00.

There is no doubt, however that the War was uppermost in everybody's mind. Throughout late August and early September, football, and, indeed, almost everything else, was forgotten. The spectre of war was paramount in the thoughts of all. A description of the mood of the public is evident from the following:

For a brief sixty minutes tonight, Winnipeg citizens will forget Europe as they watch a rugby spectacle under Osborne Stadium's floodlights. But all the excitement and ballyhoo that usually goes with grid-iron tangles between Regina Roughriders and Winnipeg Blue Bombers will be missing. The grim business now going on in Poland has dulled Winnipeg's usually ravenous appetite for football. If there is any wagering, your observer hasn't run across it. The citizens are too busy listening to radios and loudspeakers for war bulletins.<sup>93</sup>

In the East, the war was also having its effects. In Ottawa, the Rough Riders were without a park. Lansdowne Park was to be used as a military camp, while in Montreal, the home park of the Westmounts was turned over to the Militia.

In the West particularly, teams were still actively seeking imports. The West had an even greater need for them as a result of the number of enlistments which were taking place. Each team was beginning to lose a number of its key "home-brews"\*, the name by which Canadian players were beginning to be known. The West

---

<sup>93</sup> Regina Leader-Post, September 1, 1939.

\* The word "home-brew" in football is probably a carry-over from prohibition and depression days when many people were making their "brew" at home. In both cases, the home-brew was inexpensive and a substitute for the desired product.



expanded into a 12 game schedule in 1939. Most of the games were played at night and as often as possible, two were played in the space of two or three days in order to minimize travelling expenses. At the end of the Western schedule, the third and second place teams would play off with each other in order to decide which of the two would play the first place finisher for the Western championship. The final series would be a two game total-points-to-count series, whereas the semi-final was a "sudden-death" affair.

Winnipeg was still the undisputed power in the Western Inter-provincial league. The budget of the team was, in 1939, a total of \$40,000. Most of the Winnipeg players were the same ones from 1938, but recruiting was still being actively pursued. The hero of the 1938 Grey Cup game, "Red" Storey, was approached by Joe Ryan and offered a job with Maytag Washers at \$175.00 per month and \$1250.00 for playing football.<sup>94</sup> Storey, who had an agent representing him, declined the offer and stayed in the East, where he eventually became an N.H.L. referee.

Regina, Edmonton and Calgary were not as fortunate as the Manitoba city. As they did not have the population or the recent successes of Winnipeg, these three cities were struggling with their high costs and low attendances. In Edmonton, it was reported that the \$20,000.00 budget of the Eskimos was too much for that team to bear. It was further noted that the business of financing football teams in Edmonton, Regina, and Calgary was "on occasion a most unpleasant experience".<sup>95</sup> The proposed solution to the problem

---

<sup>94</sup>Joe Ryan, op. cit.

<sup>95</sup>Regina Leader-Post, October 31, 1939.





was that Winnipeg should be asked to subsidize the other Western clubs. The reasoning behind this was that the other three clubs were vital to the operation of the Winnipeg team.<sup>96</sup>

There was still some agitation for rule changes in the East. Some of the agitation came from Frank Shaughnessy, who was, in 1939, the president of the International Baseball league. He stated that Canadian football was too much of an individualist's game. He believed that it needed the benefit of unlimited interference in order to promote teamwork. Under the present regulation, Shaughnessy stated, the linemen could not play on a field "any deeper than a three yard lane, and when they pass the three yard stripe, they're through. That rule just doesn't make sense."<sup>97</sup>

The Ottawa Rough Riders had a powerful team in 1939. Orville Burke, Andy Tommy, Tommy Daley, the Sprague brothers, "Bunny" Wadsworth, and "Tiny" Herman led the Ottawa club and were primarily responsible for the sound defeat inflicted upon the Toronto Argonauts in the Interprovincial Union's two-game championship series. Ottawa defeated Toronto by scores of 11-0 and 28-6. By defeating the Sarnia Imperials by a score of 23-1, it won the right to represent the East in the Grey Cup game of 1939. Their opponents were the Winnipeg Blue Bombers who had ended up in first place in the West with a record of 10 wins and two losses. They defeated the Calgary team by the combined score of 35-20 in the two-game final series and won the

---

<sup>96</sup> Ibid.

<sup>97</sup> Regina Leader-Post, November 7, 1939.





right to represent the West in the Grey Cup game of 1939. In the national championship game, the Blue Bombers defeated the heavier and favored Rough Riders by an 8-7 score. The victory was somewhat ironical. Winnipeg and the West had been agitating for years to eliminate the rouge in certain circumstances. The Westerners had always maintained that in order for a rouge to be scored, the ball must first touch either the ground or a member of the receiving team in the end zone. In the Grey Cup game of 1939, Winnipeg's winning point was scored when Stevenson kicked the ball from Ottawa's 10 yard line, over and out of the end zone.

The 1940 annual meeting of the C.R.U. was anticipated in some quarters of Canada with a certain amount of uneasiness. The two year "stay of execution" had expired. Football followers anxiously awaited any announcements from the C.R.U. gathering. At the meeting, the West asked for an extension of the ruling that all unions must play C.R.U. rules in 1940. The extension, until 1945, was denied. Joe Ryan then proposed that interference of 5 yards be allowed for all players. In return, the West would give up its other rule differences, including the "pro pass". Ryan's suggestion was denied. It appeared that the C.R.U. wanted total capitulation or none at all. After the meeting, Ryan was dejected. "We will hold a meeting in a month or so to consider the ultimatum", Ryan said, "but I don't think that we'll accept the terms."<sup>98</sup>

---

<sup>98</sup> Regina Leader-Post, February 26, 1940.



As if to underscore its power, the C.R.U. made a startling rule change in 1940 at the annual meeting. With no advance warning the C.R.U. announced that, starting in the 1940 season, only three huddles each quarter would be allowed. For every huddle over three in each quarter, a penalty of five yards was to be assessed. In announcing the decision, Billy Foulds, president of the rules commission, stated that "it was brought about by no special section but a complaint from many quarters against the delay caused by the huddle system".<sup>99</sup>

It was decided too, that starting in 1940, the team scored upon would have the option of kicking off or receiving the ball. Previously, the team scored upon was forced to kick off.

John Bannerman, president of the C.R.U., made a motion that the residence rule be rescinded for the duration of the war. His move was prompted by the fact that much of the West's Canadian talent had enlisted in the war. In opposing Bannerman's suggestion, T.R. Loudon of the University of Toronto asked, in an angry tone ". . . if we are to let foreigners play our game while our boys are fighting."<sup>100</sup>

Throughout all this period of strife between the West and the C.R.U., the West looked upon the conflict as being between the East and the West. Insofar as the West was concerned, the predominance of Easterners among the key positions of the C.R.U. served only to verify its belief. It seemed, to the Westerner, to be just another

---

<sup>99</sup> Ibid.

<sup>100</sup> Ibid.





example of the East attempting to impose its will on the West. The following is a typical reaction from the West to the situation:

Prairie rugby seems to have reached a crossroads. Either it scraps its streamlined game, a game that has sold football to the public, or there will be no East-West final. The East has spoken. This had been coming for a long time, ever since the day in Hamilton when Winnipeg won the first Dominion title for the West. That was in 1935. It humiliated the easterners to have the Western renegades give up their own code, revamp their plays in a couple of weeks and still have enough on the ball to beat the pride of the East. The defeat of the Ottawa powerhouse last December, heaped coals on the fire. So long as the West was content to take its annual licking, the East didn't care if we used square footballs on the prairies but when the tables were turned, it was a different story.<sup>101</sup>

When the news of the curtailment of the huddle was made public, adverse reaction to the move was readily apparent. Hayman thought that the rule was a poor one. Eastern teams, he said, had little enough time to practice as it was. The only way the new system would work would be if "we can get the customers to stop cheering".<sup>102</sup> In Winnipeg, Reg Threlfall stated that "the rule sets the game back 25 years".<sup>103</sup> The public reaction against the ruling was so great that the C.R.U. was forced to reverse its decision. The huddle would be allowed as before in the 1940 season.

Meanwhile the lull in the overseas fighting, known as the "phony war" had come to an end and the renewed hostilities in the global conflict reinforced the awareness of the savage war that was being fought. A letter was sent to the federal government by John Bannerman. In it he asked the government if the playing of football, already at a low ebb,

---

<sup>101</sup>Ibid.

<sup>102</sup>Regina Leader-Post, February 27, 1940.

<sup>103</sup>Ibid.





should be curtailed or stopped during the war. The Acting Minister of National Defence, the Hon. C.G. Power, wrote to Bannerman, suggesting that the C.R.U. carry on as before the war, stating: "There are far more advantages to carrying on business as usual which would far outweigh any disadvantages resulting from the elimination of such activities."<sup>104</sup>

The war was beginning to have very serious effects on the playing of football in 1940. Edmonton withdrew from the Western Interprovincial Union, and Calgary, after losing its financial backers, formed an association in which the profits would be shared by the players. It was not a satisfactory arrangement for the new "owners", and, in the following year, Calgary too, suspended operations. Regina lost one-third of its team through enlistments, while at Winnipeg, the team was depleted by retirements and enlistments. Among the enlistments was Jeff Nicklin, one of Winnipeg's outstanding "home-brews". Nicklin was later to lose his life in the war, but his memory was to be perpetuated by a trophy in his name--the Jeff Nicklin Memorial Trophy. In the East, Ottawa was looking forward to the coming season, while Montreal, known as the Royals, had amalgamated with the Westmounts and was anticipating a successful season. Neither Toronto nor Hamilton seemed to be particularly enthusiastic about the coming season. The O.R.F.U. decided to pledge all that union's proceeds, after expenses, to the Red Cross. As evidence of good faith, President Muirhead posted a \$500.00 bond as a guarantee that the union's donation would not be below that

---

<sup>104</sup>J. Lewis Brown, "Carry On", National Home Monthly, October 1940, p. 20.



figure. The O.R.F.U. was, however, in serious trouble. The West-mounts of Montreal had withdrawn and it appeared that Sarnia would also, because of the increased demands on the Imperial Esso plant at Sarnia.

By October, the Western Interprovincial Union, which had severed its affiliation with the C.R.U. as a result of the 1940 meeting, decided once again to become a member of that national body--even though it knew that it could not compete for the Grey Cup. The cost of the affiliation was \$250.00 but rather than being money wasted, Bannerman said that the union was maintaining its membership "in the cause of national unity in a major sport and he could see no reason why the West would want to end its affiliation."<sup>105</sup>

As the season progressed, it became more apparent that a C.R.U.-sponsored series for the Canadian championship would not take place. Toward the end of October, Fred Hamilton, president of the Sports Service League, sent a telegram to Winnipeg and Calgary in the West, and Toronto, Ottawa and Balmy Beach in the East. The telegram stated that the Sports Service League had a sponsor who wished to finance a meeting between the East and West on December 7, in Toronto. It went on to say: ". . . winner undoubtedly would be acclaimed Canadian champions. Expenses along lines of Canadian Rugby Union finals. All surplus to go to Canadian Soldiers Sports Fund".<sup>106</sup>

---

<sup>105</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, October 10, 1940.

<sup>106</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, October 30, 1940.





Feeling confident of the replies, the Sports Service League contracted to rent Varsity Stadium for the December 7 date, which was one week after the announced championship game between the Inter-provincial and Ontario Union winners.

Bannerman thought that the idea had merit. He went further. He proposed that two games be played: one under the eastern rules and one under the western. The two games, said Bannerman, "would bring in more money for the war effort and would also give eastern fans an opportunity to judge the merits of western rules".<sup>107</sup> Ottawa announced that it would only play if the game were sanctioned by the C.R.U. Winnipeg accepted. Finished with their season on November 9, they were still practicing on November 25, in anticipation of the game.

The C.R.U. declared that it, too, would do something for the war effort. It stated that the Canadian championship was to be settled by a two-game point championship series. The games between Ottawa and Toronto Balmy Beach were to be played on November 30 and December 7. The C.R.U. also announced that 20 per cent of the gate receipts was to be directed to charity--half to the Red Cross and half to the St. John Ambulance Brigade. As soon as the announcement was made, the discontent was obvious. The Montreal Herald summed up the irate feelings when it stated that it would be a fine patriotic and sporting gesture "if the Canadian Rugby Union were to abandon its dictatorial attitude at a time when our own part of the world is fighting dictatorship".<sup>108</sup>

---

<sup>107</sup> Toronto Globe and Mail, February 24, 1941.

<sup>108</sup> Montreal Herald as quoted in the Toronto Globe and Mail, November 27, 1940.





The C.R.U. did not relent, and Ottawa defeated Balmy Beach twice, 8-2 in the snow and 12-5 in the mud, rain and sleet. A total of less than 6,000 spectators attended the games. As a protest against the C.R.U. decision, John Bannerman resigned.

When the C.R.U. met again in 1941, the hostile feelings, particularly among the delegates to the meeting, were still in evidence. When the matter of Bannerman's resignation was brought up, it seemed that another controversy was about to flare up. Bannerman's letter of resignation, written in December of 1940, was introduced and its acceptance was moved by Fred Hatch of Hamilton. Hatch said that his motion was made "'with regret'. Dr. Kinsella of Toronto, a past president of the C.R.U., seconded the motion, terming his action 'without regret'."<sup>109</sup> In spite of the obvious enmity, the C.R.U. proceeded to have one of that body's most productive meetings.

The meeting of 1941 not only solved the conflict between the East and the West, it also resolved the problem of rules. In effect, all of the western rules were accepted by the C.R.U. and a compromise was reached on the problem of interference. The "pro pass" was adopted, meaning that the pass could now be thrown from any point behind the line of scrimmage. Where the end zone was less than regulation size, a rouge could not be scored unless the ball first landed or touched a defender in the goal area. The compromise effected for the interference stated that linemen could block for 5 yards in advance of the line of scrimmage. Backs would be able to

---

<sup>109</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, February 24, 1941.



block one yard in front and one yard behind the line. The new rules were to be given a one year trial "providing they effect a reconciliation between eastern and western unions of the C.R.U. The West has until March 15 to accept or reject the changes".<sup>110</sup>

The changes were accepted and once again the playing rules were similar throughout the country.

As the intensity of the war progressed, Canada's commitment increased and, as a result, more teams dropped out of competition. In the West, the Calgary Bronks withdrew from the Western league. The Grizzlies from Vancouver, coached by Greg Kabat, seized the opportunity to enter their team in the Western Interprovincial Union. In the East, the Hamilton Tigers withdrew from competition. Actually the Big Four disbanded in 1941. In its place, a new union was formed in an attempt to assure that the game was played. Called the Eastern Canada Union, it consisted of the Toronto Argonauts, Ottawa Rough Riders, Montreal Bulldogs and Toronto Balmy Beach. The Ontario Rugby Union continued to operate with three teams: Toronto Oakwood-Indians, Kitchener-Waterloo Panthers and the Hamilton Wildcats, made up from most of the members of the Tiger team.

Ottawa was still the strongest team in the new union. One of the reasons for its success was the play of the "Golden Boy", Tony Golab. From Windsor, Ontario, Golab joined the Sarnia Imperials in 1938, after finishing his High School education. The following year, he was in Ottawa, where his play so impressed Joe Ryan that the latter recalled how Winnipeg had attempted to sign Golab when

---

<sup>110</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, February 24, 1941.





he was working in Fort William during a summer. Ryan stated:

We had him practically surrounded. For two solid months we had an emissary meet him at least once a day with a certified cheque, but Tony never did get around to taking it. He was either too incorruptible or too expensive, I'm not sure which.<sup>111</sup>

Golab was awarded the Jeff Russel Trophy for his exceptional play in 1941.

In the O.R.F.U., the Hamilton Wildcats easily won the championship. Coached by Fred "Smut" Veale, who had played with the Queen's championship team of 1923, the Wildcats prepared to meet Ottawa for the Eastern championship. Veale enlisted the aid of Johnny Metras, who was coaching at the University of Western Ontario. Metras coached the Hamilton line for two weeks and was given much of the credit for the improved play of the Hamilton team in its game with Ottawa. Ottawa did, however, defeat the Hamilton Wildcats by a score of 7-2.

In the West, Winnipeg aided by exhibition games with the American professional team Columbus Bulls and the semi-professional Kenosha Cardinals, overwhelmed Vancouver and Regina to win the Western championship once again.

An air of excitement was prevalent in Toronto. Ottawa had lost the last Grey Cup game between these two teams and their followers were looking forward to an Ottawa victory. The game was a contest between placement kickers Ches McCance of Winnipeg and George Fraser of Ottawa. An attendance of 19,000 spectators thoroughly enjoyed the continuation of the Grey Cup classic after the previous year's

---

<sup>111</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, November 12, 1940.





interruption. As Ted Reeve phrased it: "There was a gala spirit about the day, like a big reunion. It was a fine, and maybe for a little while, a final salute to a great sport."<sup>112</sup>

In 1942, football operations were minimal in the established leagues. The Western Inprovincial Football Union ceased operation. The four team Eastern Canada Union also suspended its activities. Only the Ontario Rugby Football Union continued to operate. What football was played, was dominated by teams from the armed forces. The R.C.A.F. Hurricanes, representing the Ontario Union, defeated the R.C.A.F. Uplands team from Ottawa by a score of 18-13, to win the Eastern championship. The Hurricanes, coached by Lew Hayman, proceeded to defeat the Winnipeg R.C.A.F. Bombers in the Grey Cup game of 1942. The score was 8-5.

In 1943, the Hamilton Wildcats, a combined civilian-service team, coached by Brian Timmis, won the championship of the Ontario Union. They next defeated the Lachine R.C.A.F., of the Quebec Union, in a close game. The score was 7-6 in Hamilton's favor. The Winnipeg R.C.A.F. Bombers again won the West but they were defeated by the Wildcats. Hamilton defeated Winnipeg by the score of 23-14 to win the Grey Cup in 1943.

In the 1944 season, the Grey Cup champions of 1943 appeared to have won another title, this one uncontested. Another service team challenged them, however. This time it was a Navy team, called the St. Hyacinthe-Donnaconas, representing the Quebec Rugby Union. The Donnaconas defeated the Wildcats by a score of 7-6 and won the

---

<sup>112</sup>Ted Reeve, op. cit., p. 84.



Grey Cup. The commander of the Navy team, J. McFetrick, wrote a letter to the C.R.U., suggesting that the C.R.U. withdraw its recognition of the Donnaconas as Grey Cup champions. Commander McFetrick's reasoning was that "the team had competed in the final contrary to service regulations due to a misunderstanding".<sup>113</sup> The C.R.U. declined, however, and instead passed a motion congratulating the St. Hyacinthe-Donnaconas on its victory. It was later revealed that the contravened regulation was one which stated that service teams were not to compete with civilian teams for the duration of the war. The regulation was put into effect because of criticism that the members of the armed forces, who were good in various sports, were being transferred to a certain outfit in an attempt to assemble a strong team at that base.

Throughout the war years, the public seemed to desire sports entertainment. It appeared that, as the war's intensity escalated, Canadians were in need of increased diversions. When the war with Germany ended on May 7, 1945, there was an eager anticipation on the part of most Canadians for a return to a normal existence.

In the East, the O.R.F.U. commenced its 1945 operations with five teams: The Ottawa Trojans, Toronto Balmy Beach, Toronto Indians, Hamilton Wildcats, and the Windsor Rockets. The Big Four, still officially known as the Interprovincial Rugby Football Union, commenced its operations with its original four cities being represented. The Big Four teams were: The Ottawa Rough Riders, Toronto Argonauts, Montreal Hornets and the Hamilton Tigers.

---

<sup>113</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, February 26, 1945.





In the West, Winnipeg was the first city to signify its intention of participating again. Regina soon followed and Calgary, in 1945 known as the Stampeders, was the third team to indicate that it would participate in the league. Among the missing in Winnipeg was Joe Ryan. He had moved East, in 1942, first to Ottawa and later to Montreal. Also missing was the previously mentioned, Jeff Nicklin.

With the sudden return of an abundance of talent, there appeared to be much recruiting of players by the rival teams. The players soon recognized this, and it was not uncommon for players to attend the practices of three or four different teams in the same number of nights. Once they discovered the team from which they could obtain the most in return for their talent, they would sign a C.R.U. card (see Appendix C) with that team.

The Big Four decided, at the start of the season, that all gate receipts in that league would be pooled. This was done in an effort to stabilize the situation in Montreal, where attendances had fallen annually since that city's success in 1931. As a result of the pooled receipts, Ottawa forwarded \$12,000 from the ticket sales of three home games. The Rough Riders estimated that they would receive \$8,700.00 from the arrangement. Only the playoff games with the Argonauts saved Ottawa "from losing \$5,000.00 because of the pooling of gate receipts".<sup>114</sup>

The Argonauts, after disposing of Ottawa, defeated Balmy Beach to win the Eastern Canadian championship. In the West, Winnipeg defeated Regina in the two-game, total-point series and travelled

---

<sup>114</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, November 16, 1945.





East to play the Argonauts in the renewal of the Grey Cup game. The result of the game indicated that the West had a long way to go in order to come up to the Eastern standards. Winnipeg's all-Canadian team was defeated by Toronto's all-Canadian team by a 35-0 score. Toronto, coached by Ted Morris and paced by Joe "King" Krol, had inflicted the worst defeat upon any team from the West since Queen's defeated the Regina Roughriders by a 54-0 score in 1923.



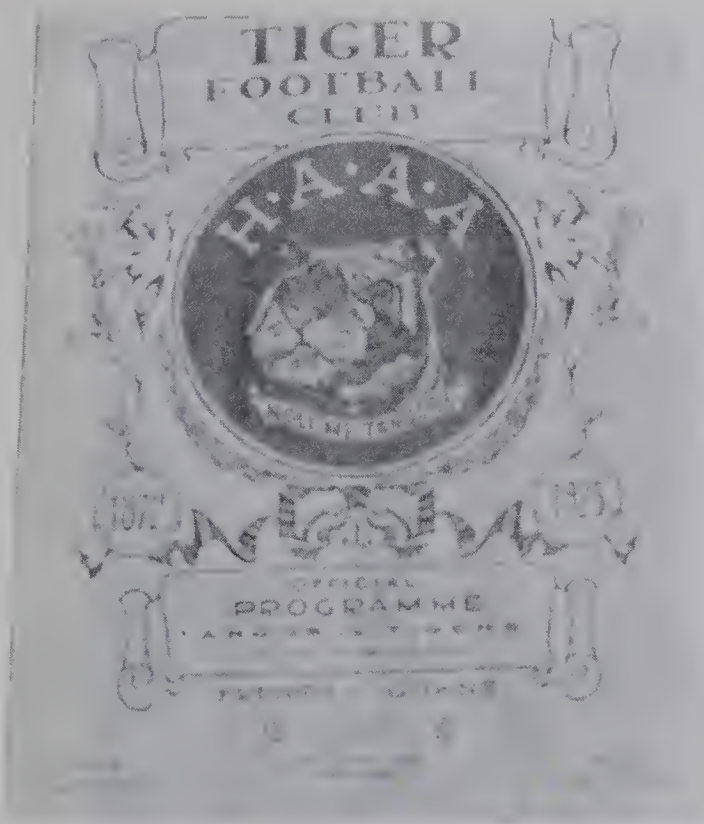


Fig. 20. Tiger Program, 1925

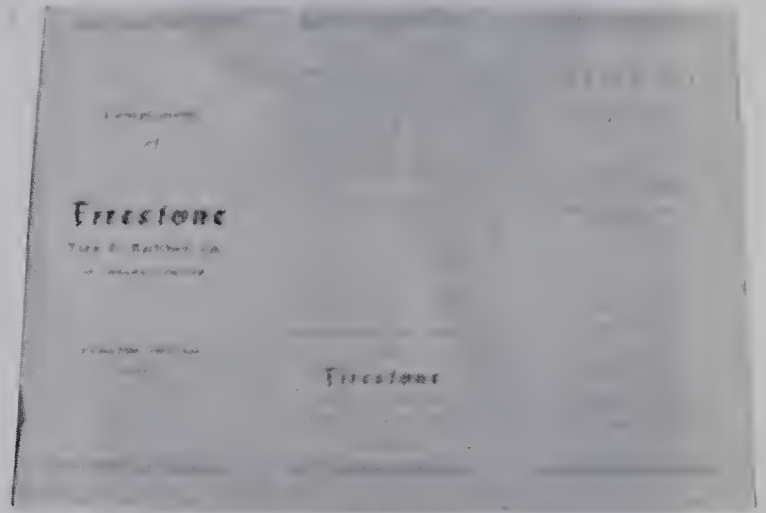


Fig. 21. Grey Cup Program, 1929



Fig. 22. Ted Reeve



Fig. 23. Brian Timmis







Fig. 24. Warren Stevens



Fig. 25. Orm Beach



Fig. 26. Lionel Conacher



Fig. 27. Fritzie Hanson













Fig. 30. Dave Sprague

Fig. 31. Specially Built Face  
↓  
Mask, 1938



Fig. 32. 1943 Grey Cup Champions, Hamilton Wildcats





## CHAPTER VI

1946 - 1968

### POST-WAR PROFESSIONALISM

1946 - 1955

The war from 1939-1945 was a significant agent of change throughout Canada. Although many thought that a depression would follow the war, as it did the previous, the post-war period not only eradicated all signs of the pre-war depression, it was characterized by one of the greatest economic booms in Canadian history. Industry was thriving and there appeared to be a distinct "Canadian identity" among its citizens. The war appeared to have aided in the removal of some of the past traditions which tended to keep the Canadian identity introverted. The war, immigration, the lessening of the importance of ties with Britain, the corresponding increase in relations with the United States, each contributed to this new awakening in Canadian life. As a result of these influences and the common purpose dictated to Canadians by the war, there was the breakdown of many social barriers. Among the barriers affected was amateurism. In football, the senior clubs did not openly renounce their amateur status, nor did they openly embrace professionalism in the years directly following the war. They simply chose to ignore the concept of amateurism. The constitution of the C.R.U. and, indeed, of all the various unions in Canada, had the stipulation that all members had to be amateurs. The wealthy clubs chose to ignore the regulation and the poorer clubs had to make a decision as to whether they should carry on in an amateur way thereby losing money and prestige, or join with the other clubs in recruiting and paying players.





The move towards open professionalism in Canadian football came early in 1946. At the annual meeting of the C.R.U., held on February 23, 1946, that body, largely due to the initiative of Joe Ryan, approved of three major items. The residence rule, which had been in effect since 1936, was abolished. In its place was a diluted version which stated that in 1946 a player had to reside in Canada from the twenty-sixth of August in the current season. Interference of ten yards was to be permitted for all linemen. In a surprise move, it was announced that five American imports would be allowed on each team.

As previously stated, the changes had been made largely because of the persuasion and influence of Joe Ryan, who was then a resident of Montreal and a shareholder of that city's new football entry, the Montreal Alouettes. Ryan, when he introduced the motion, stated that he thought that the Canadian discrimination against imports "was born of panic and provincialism".<sup>1</sup> He proceeded to enumerate the various times that Winnipeg players were kept from competing in the Grey Cup game after the Winnipeg victory of 1935. As an argument for his motion, Ryan stated that many returning servicemen who played football were taking advantage of rehabilitation benefits by returning to college. This would strengthen the college teams, Ryan said, but would only serve to weaken the other leagues.

Former Varsity Coach Harry Griffiths was one who expressed opposition while conceding himself to be "a voice crying in the wilderness. Maybe I'm old-fashioned but I think unrestricted

---

<sup>1</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, February 25, 1946.



professionalism will work hardship on amateurs in smaller centres".<sup>2</sup>

The irony of the situation did not escape the attention of all the observers. Jim Coleman, in the Globe and Mail, wrote:

. . . Ryan cleared his voice and said: "Gentlemen! I move that we permit linemen to block 10 yards past the line of scrimmage."

"Agreed! Capital! Splendid! Sensational!" yelped the members of the Old Guard, passing the resolution without a dissenting whinny. "Didn't those dastards from the West propose such a course 10 years ago?" asked Phineas, uncomfortably. "Oh, yes, but they were just trying to cause trouble" replied Doc Cascara. "This proposal comes from Montreal and obviously it is the result of mature consideration and will be of inestimable benefit to the game."

Holding his old school tie right out in front of him, Ryan said: "And now I propose that we should permit any team to import five United States players. I propose that this rule should remain in effect for two years."

"Agreed! Agreed! Splendid! Sensational! Epochal!, thundered the delegates. "Didn't those dastards from the West want to import players from the United States a few years ago and didn't we find it necessary to clamp down on them?" asked Phineas. "Yas, Yas, replied the Doc, "but this proposal comes from Montreal, which after all is ALMOST in Eastern Canada--after all it's only a few miles from the Ontario boundary."<sup>3</sup>

Besides Ryan, the individual who had most to do with the Montreal franchise was Lew Hayman, the winning coach in the Grey Cup games of 1933, 1937, 1938 and 1942. Hayman severed his connection with the Argonauts in 1945 over a dispute concerning salary. When the Montreal opportunity presented itself, Hayman, who had achieved a measure of wealth through investments in the stock market, assumed control of the Montreal operation. Montreal represented a unique

---

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Jim Coleman, Article in the Toronto Globe and Mail, February 25, 1946.





challenge. It had a professional hockey team, the Canadiens of the National Hockey League, and a professional baseball team, the Royals of the International League, but Montrealers for some reason had never actively supported a football team. Hayman reasoned that there was nothing in football with which French-speaking Canadians could identify. He decided to hire the well known Leo Dandurand as president of the new club. It was further decided to give the Montreal entry a French name and as a result the name "Alouette" was chosen. The name "Alouette", besides being French, had the added advantage of having been popularized in a well-known song. Then it was decided to move the Alouettes' games from McGill's Molson Stadium to Delormier Downs, home of the Montreal Royals baseball team. It seemed that the French people of Montreal did not particularly enjoy going to games within McGill's confines. Another innovation introduced by the Alouettes was the practice of playing games, whenever possible, on Sunday. This was not always possible because there was a strong aversion among the Ontario teams, particularly the Argonauts, to playing games on Sunday.<sup>4</sup> Half-time entertainment was offered as part of each of Montreal's home games. In effect, it was a thoroughly professional organization, but Hayman defended that aspect by stating:

In the days before the war, the players were paid off in the dark. Some of the Canadian players took money and others didn't, though nearly all of them accepted gifts. Imports from the United States were paid in cash--somewhere between \$1,000.00 and \$1,200.00 for a season.<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup>H.H. Roxborough, "Montreal's Alouettes are Flying High", National Home Monthly, October 1946, p. 30.

<sup>5</sup>J.A. Carroll, "Dollars and Dropkicks", Saturday Night, October 11, 1949, p. 31.





Not all teams imported Americans in 1946. The Toronto Argonauts stubbornly refused to import American players--not without good reasons. They won the Grey Cup in 1945, 1946 and 1947 with Canadian players and a Canadian coach, Teddy Morris. The Argonauts were, however, just as "amateur" as the other teams. In the 1945 rush for players after the war, the Toronto Argonauts hired Steve Levantis, Les Ascot, Jack Wedley, Pat Reed and Frank Morris for the sum of \$350.00 each for the six game season. Bill Zock, another lineman, was also hired, but was only paid \$250.00 for the season because he had played for Toronto Balmy Beach in the O.R.F.U. and had to prove that he could play in the Big Four.<sup>6</sup>

The following season, 1946, the six above-mentioned players decided to approach the Argonauts as a unit with a view to getting \$750.00 each for the season. Levantis and Wedley were delegated by the group to negotiate with the Argonaut executive. After a fairly lengthy discussion, both came out of the Argonaut office, each with a smile on his face. The Argonauts had agreed to pay each man \$750.00 for the season. What the group of six did not know, however, was that the schedule was to be increased in 1946 from six to twelve games.<sup>7</sup>

One of the reasons, of course, for this increase in professionalism was the popularity of the Grey Cup game. Since its inception, the C.R.U. had taken only a small percentage of the game receipts. The remaining funds were left to be divided evenly among the two

---

<sup>6</sup>Frank Morris, An Interview with the Writer, March 13, 1968.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid.



competing teams after necessary expenses were deducted. As the receipts increased, the teams became more interested in fielding a winning team, a team which would win the Grey Cup. In effect, it was like a group of business concerns, each manufacturing the same product and each competing with each other for sales. When one introduced an innovation, the others had to follow suit in an attempt to maintain their chances of making the sale. In the case of the football teams the "sale" was the Grey Cup.

In the West, Winnipeg coach Jack West, called a practice early in May in order to see and appraise the local talent. More than seventy players attended, twenty of whom had previous experience. Senior practice in Winnipeg started in earnest the first day of August, twenty-five days before the rule stipulation for residents. It was an early start, partly made necessary by the visit for two exhibition games of the Montreal Alouettes. In the first game on August 30, played before six thousand spectators, the Blue Bombers defeated the Alouettes by a score of 17-6. The second game, played on Monday, September 2, was won by the Montreal team 24-0.

Attendances were much higher throughout the country in 1946. In the East, Montreal opened its season before 16,000 spectators. When the Big Four finished its schedule, Toronto and Montreal were tied and a play-off was necessary to decide the winner of the league. The play-off game between those two teams attracted a record of 23,000 spectators who saw Toronto defeat the Montreal entry 12-6. Even the Eastern Canada final game between Balmy Beach and the Argonauts attracted 20,000 people. In that game, the Argonauts defeated the O.R.F.U. representatives 22-12. In the West, attendances





increased also. Crowds at football games still varied between three and six thousand spectators. After some difficulty, Winnipeg defeated the Dean Griffing-coached Calgary Stampeders in the two-game total-point series by a combined score of 30-21. The Grey Cup game was attended by a near capacity crowd of 19,000 spectators and Toronto again defeated Winnipeg 28-6.

The 1947 meeting of the C.R.U. was one of the most amicable meetings ever held. All seemed pleased with the acceptance that the game had received throughout Canada. All the probationary rules of 1946 were approved for the 1947 season. A slight change was made in the rule regarding the forward pass. Previously, if two forward passes in succession were incomplete in the defending team's goal area, the passing team would lose possession of the ball. As a result of the new ruling, the only time that a passing team could lose the ball as a result of an incomplete pass was on a third down attempt. A change was also made in the ruling regarding a blocked kick. In 1947, a team recovering its own blocked kick on third down was given a ten yard penalty and third down over again. A further change allowed teams to dress twenty-four players in C.R.U. sponsored games, instead of twenty. For the first time, the team scored upon had the option of kicking off or receiving the ball after the score; the non-offending team had the option of declining a penalty; a kick-off that went over the dead-ball line would be again kicked off without a penalty.

The rule which was to have the most effect on the style of play, however, received very little publicity. News of the change seemingly appeared as an afterthought. It was permissible, starting





in 1947, for the snap to hand the ball back to the quarterback. When the snapback rule of 1921 was instituted into the C.R.U. code, it simply stated that the ball "must leave his (snap's) hands and must travel in a general direction towards his own goal line".<sup>8</sup> The intention of the rule was that the ball be passed from the centre to the quarterback or the backfielder. The rule did not specifically state that, however, and Edmonton, in the Grey Cup game of 1921, stationed its quarterback directly behind the centre, who in turn handed the ball through his legs to the quarterback. In 1922, the rule was revised to state in addition to the above: "it must not be handed by the snapper to the player receiving it from the snapper".<sup>9</sup>

As a result, from 1922 until 1946, teams had to use a single wing formation or a similar one in which the person receiving the ball from the centre was some distance removed from him. The rule change of 1947, which was not accompanied by any special fanfare permitted the use of the T-formation, and is really the starting point for the modern offensive style of play. Its inclusion in the rules of 1947 was related to the increased Americanization of the game. Since 1941, the T-formation system had been popular in the United States. With its increasing popularity there, most American players were being trained in its use. It was only natural that if the Canadian game were to be dependent upon American imports, the game would have to be tailored somewhat to

---

<sup>8</sup>Official Playing Rules of the C.R.U., 1922.

<sup>9</sup>Official Playing Rules of the C.R.U., 1922.



exploit the American talent. It did not make sense to hire an American because of his talent and then place him into a situation where his talent was restricted.

A number of other "firsts" took place in Canadian football. For the first time a Western team travelled East to play in other than a C.R.U. series game. Regina travelled to Hamilton, Montreal and Ottawa in 1947. They lost all three games. The Wildcats defeated them 28-6; the Alouettes defeated them by a score of 22-7 and Ottawa humiliated the Regina team by a score of 54-0. From another point of view the three games were a success for Regina. Gabe Patterson went to the Roughriders after being released from Montreal and was one of the western team's best performers. Regina also started a new trend. Always handicapped by a lack of "home-brews", Regina attempted to solve that problem by "importing" six Easterners.

While Regina was in the East, Toronto Argonauts travelled to Winnipeg to play the Blue Bombers. The game created more than the normal amount of interest when it was announced that the trip would be by airplane, the first time such a mode of transportation was used by a Canadian football team. Argonauts defeated the Blue Bombers in both games played; the scores being 16-9 and 11-0. The games were much needed by the Winnipeg team. An attempt to raise \$10,000.00 from the public in order to import American talent fell short by approximately \$3500.00. The two games, which drew a total of 12,000 spectators, more than made up the difference.

That the players were being paid, while performing in an "amateur" league, was well known. After the Argonauts were defeated





by the Ottawa Rough Riders early in the 1947 season, the following article was one reaction:

. . . It's high time that the Argonauts came out and announced that they are operating a professional team. It's high time that they made noises which indicate that they are hiring their players. It's high time that they gave their coach some support and fine players who don't give their best displays when they are on the field.<sup>10</sup>

It was increasingly evident that American influence in the Canadian game was not restricted to players, coaches and the rules. American football terminology was displacing Canadian. Possibly because journalists and radio commentators found themselves interviewing American coaches and players, they started to use the American terms of "centre", "guard", "tackle", and "end" instead of "snap", "inside wing", "middle wing", and "outside wing".

The peace and harmony so evident in football since the war came to an abrupt end in 1947 with the announcement by the Hamilton Tigers that they intended to use Frank Filchok during the season. Filchok, an American, had played previously with the New York Giants of the National Football League. In 1946, he was barred from playing for one year "across the border for failing to report a bribe offer".<sup>11</sup> It was reported that when the Tigers sent Filchok's C.R.U. card to that governing body, it was "returned with the endorsement 'not granted'".<sup>12</sup> The Tigers argued that as far as they were concerned, Filchok had met all of the regulations "as embodied

---

<sup>10</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, September 8, 1947.

<sup>11</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, September 11, 1947.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid.





in the minutes of the meeting dated February 26, 1946".<sup>13</sup> The Hamilton team decided therefore, that they would use Filchock in 1947.

The Tiger officials had already seen the results of Filchock's ability. Both exhibition games played in Hamilton, with Filchock as an attraction, were played to capacity attendances.

The Interprovincial Union did not agree with Hamilton's interpretation of the situation. They ruled that every game played by Hamilton, with Filchock in the lineup, would count as a defeat. In a month's time, however, the increasing attendances in parks where Filchock was appearing seemed to dispel the doubts concerning Filchock's eligibility. Filchock was granted, unanimously, a certificate of eligibility at a special meeting of the Interprovincial Union on Monday October 13.

Despite Filchock, the Argonauts won their third straight Interprovincial Union championship. In a playoff with the Ottawa Trojans, the O.R.F.U. representatives in the Eastern Canadian final, Toronto defeated that team by a score of 21-1. In the West, the two game total point championship for the Western championship, played between Calgary and Winnipeg, was tied at the end of the two games. Winnipeg had defeated Calgary by a 16-4 score and lost the second game by 15-3. In the extra game, Winnipeg, by virtue of their 10-9 victory, was awarded the championship of the West.

A gathering of 19,000 spectators saw the Grey Cup game in which the Teddy Morris-coached Argonauts won their third consecutive

---

<sup>13</sup>Ibid.



Grey Cup, each against Winnipeg. Each year, however the margin of victory was diminishing. The score in 1947 was 10-9. The closeness of the game and the fact that it was Winnipeg, once again, losing the national championship to the Argonauts, once again, led to the following parody of the 1935 poem commemorating Winnipeg's first Grey Cup victory.

Out where they're talking now of secession,  
 Out where Saturday caused a depression,  
 Out where they tackle in formidable fashion,  
 That's where the West begins.

Out where they plot the Argonauts ruin,  
 (Envisage a field with Argonauts strewn),  
 Out where the plans for next year are brewin',  
 That's where the West begins.<sup>14</sup>

Football appeared to be more popular than ever, and the 1948 C.R.U. meeting met accompanied by renewed optimism. It had been three consecutive years in succession that the Grey Cup game had been played before a capacity attendance at Varsity Stadium. Some of the delegates wanted additional changes in the game which would take greater advantage of the American players' capabilities, whereas others wanted to consolidate the many changes that had been made. The West wanted to increase the number of imports to six. When an equal number of delegates voted for and against the motion, it remained for the chairman to cast the deciding ballot in favor of retaining the five import regulation. Some concessions were made to the West. The date for required residence was moved from August 26 to September 1st. The residence rule, whether it was August 26 or September 1st was ineffective in regards to its original aim of discouraging professionalism. But, by moving the date to September 1st,

---

<sup>14</sup>Jim Coleman, Article in the Toronto Globe and Mail, December 1, 1947.





teams which started practicing in early August could now recruit additional players if their original imports did not exhibit the performance expected of them. A further change was made, however, which was to be a source of financial concern in the years to come. It was decided at the 1948 meeting that all Americans who had resided in Canada for four years would be classified as Canadians for football purposes. A step toward complete specialization was taken when it was announced that unlimited substitution would be allowed for the 1948 season. The substitution was not unlimited in the sense that a player could enter the game whenever the coach was so inclined. Whereas the rule stated that in 1947 only two players per quarter could enter the game, the 1948 rule allowed any number per quarter to enter the game, the only restriction being that each substitute had to report to the head linesman one play before substituting.

The success that the Hamilton Tigers enjoyed in 1947 prompted that team to request that the other members of the league share gate receipts with each other. Both Toronto and Montreal had larger stadia and each of these teams benefitted more from the attraction of Filchok than did Hamilton. The Tigers argued that a city like Toronto, with its 20,000 seat stadium, should share some of its receipts with the visiting clubs. After all, they argued, the visitors were partly responsible for the attendance at the game. The other members of the Big Four did not see the situation in the same way, and as a result Hamilton Tigers withdrew from the Interprovincial Union. No sooner did the Tigers withdraw than the Hamilton Wildcats of the O.R.F.U. applied and were accepted by the Big Four. The Wildcats had been coached by Frank Gnup since 1946. Gnup, an American was from





Manhattan College in New York. His playing and coaching ability helped to mold the Wildcats into a perennial contender in the O.R.F.U. As a result, since the post-war revival there were two teams in Hamilton competing for support. Each team had its own following and many were the arguments as to whether the Wildcats or the Tigers were the better team.

The Tigers found themselves with a team but no league in which to play. Subsequently they applied and were heartily welcomed into the O.R.F.U. which, as Ted Reeve stated, was regarded by many as "the Overlooked Rugby Football Union".<sup>15</sup> The Tigers, complete with Filchok and his \$7,000.00 contract, were looked upon by the O.R.F.U. as an indication of a possible revival of that body. The Toronto Balmy Beach club, without many of its better players who had to stay behind and work, went on a Western tour. As a result of their two victories and the entry of the Tigers, the Union was eagerly anticipating the 1948 season.

In Ottawa, Lansdowne Park was completely overhauled.

. . . The playing field was redug to a depth of 18 inches and given a new tile bottom, then it was crowned for proper drainage. New sod eight inches deep was put into place. Cars aren't allowed to park on the far side of the field anymore, thus eliminating the hazard of having some player come out of the mess with a 1948 license plate imprinted on his kisser. Temporary stands have been erected where the cars used to park. The fences have been painted and the yardage markers are painted brilliantly in the old club colors of red, white and black.<sup>16</sup>

In the West, Regina and Winnipeg agreed that six imports could

---

<sup>15</sup>Ted Reeve, Op. Cit., p. 39.

<sup>16</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, September 7, 1948.



be used in games between those two teams. It was in Calgary, however, where a new trend in the recruiting of American players started.

The coach of Calgary was Les Lear, who was born in the United States but left that country as a boy and moved to Canada. Lear played football with Winnipeg when it made Grey Cup appearances during the years 1937, 1938, 1939, 1941, and 1942. When the war was over he was a member of the National Football League champion Cleveland Rams when that team won the title in 1945. With Calgary, Lear was a playing coach who entered the game only occasionally.

Prior to 1948, and Lear's appearance as a coach, Canadian football teams recruited American players from small American colleges. There were isolated examples of former professionals in the game, but these were the exception rather than the rule. Lear, however, hired seasoned professionals from the United States. Spaitth and Aguirre were from the Hawaiian Warriors, Anderson was from the Los Angeles Bears and Woody Strode was from the Los Angeles Rams. In addition, Fritzie Hanson and seven other former Winnipeg players had found their way to Calgary.

It was Calgary's best season in the W.I.F.U. The Stampeders won 12 consecutive games in their league play and in the two-game total point series with Regina, defeated the Roughriders by the total score of 21-10. The first game was a 4-4 tie and Calgary was victorious by a 17-6 score in the second game.

In the East, Ottawa ended Toronto's domination of the Big Four and easily defeated the Hamilton Tigers of the O.R.F.U., winning 19-0.

If the Edmonton Eskimos made the Grey Cup game "national" in 1921, the Calgary Stampeders made it a "celebration" in 1948. What had previously been accepted as a meeting between two football teams,





was transformed into a week of cameraderie and festivities. In 1948, the Grey Cup assumed the proportions of a national celebration.

. . . As a spectacle, this Canadian football championship affair had all the colors of the spectrum. It had the gaudiest build-up cowboys and Indians, cops and robbers, the football teams could produce. The Stampeders with their ponies, their chuck-wagons, their Indian chief cheerleader, their flapjacks and their western brand of enthusiasm, had taken over the town long before game time . . . All morning Saturday, the Calgarys paraded at the drop of a tuba note. They finally wound up at the City Hall, fried some flaps for some Jacks, gave a guy by the name of Hiram (Toronto Mayor Hiram McCallum) a ride on one of their ponies and headed for the Stadium. It was quite a piece of mobile vaudeville by the time it hit Bloor Street. One prairie schooner even had a little prairie schooner tagging along behind. There were wagons and trucks and cars and dogies and on them all were people, most of them peculiarly dressed in great big hats and great big boots and all of them shouting great big boasts.<sup>17</sup>

The game itself was almost incidental to the proceedings, but the victory by Calgary, by a 12-7 score over Ottawa, brought on further displays of western "shenanigans". Within minutes of the Calgary victory, most of the hotels in Toronto had removed the furniture from their lobbies, lest it be damaged by the exuberant westerners and their horses.

In the game, Calgary scored its touchdowns on plays which are still fondly remembered when the 1948 game is discussed. Their first touchdown was scored after Keith Spaith had passed to Strode for a long gain. Norm Hill of Calgary lay down on the opposite side of the field while Strode was tackled. No one on the Ottawa team saw Hill and, on the ensuing play, Spaith threw to Hill for a touchdown. The play was ironical because Ottawa had used this "sleeper play" successfully

---

<sup>17</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, November 29, 1948.





during the season. Lear, knowing this, protested loudly through the press, prior to the game, that the "sleeper" was illegal and should be banned.

Calgary's second touchdown was another unrehearsed play. Bob Paffrath, the Ottawa quarterback, lateralled the ball to Pete Karpuk. The ball bounced on the ground and the horns of three officials were blown simultaneously to signal the off-side lateral. All play appeared to stop. Karpuk made no effort to retrieve the ball. Woody Strode, after some hesitation, picked it up and started to trot toward the Ottawa goal line, all the while looking back to see what was happening at the line of scrimmage. Eventually Ottawa gave chase and Strode lateralled the ball to Jim Mitchener. The result was that Calgary had first down on Ottawa's ten yard line, where Mitchener was forced out of bounds. From there, Pete Thodus scored for the Stampede.

The game again attracted a capacity attendance, and the ticket prices of \$2.00, \$1.50 and \$1.00 resulted in gate receipts of \$26,655.00. It appeared that the entertainment was worth more than the asking price. The Globe and Mail commented:

Its time that the Canadian Rugby Union realized that football has become "Big Business". The admission prices weren't high enough, the stadium was too small and the teams emerged from the game with nothing but prestige, a handful of unpaid bills and a headache. The only organizations that profited from the game were the hotels, the transportation companies and the government liquor stores. If Toronto hopes to stage the Dominion Championship again next year, we should be sure to provide a stadium that can accomodate at least 40,000 spectators--at higher prices too.<sup>18</sup>

---

<sup>18</sup>Ibid.



The year 1948 signalled the end of the East's domination and it also was the end of an era. While it was not put into the rule book, it was compulsory that all players wear helmets after 1948. The two players who were among the last to play without the benefit of a helmet were Virgil Wagner of the Alouettes and Eddie Michaels of the Ottawa Rough Riders. Wagner would occasionally wear one but Michaels refused to wear his.

The game was thought to be sufficiently professional in 1948 to have an article written on the financing of football. It stated that "Lew Hayman opened his ledgers at the request of Canadian Business".<sup>19</sup> It further stated that to "operate a senior football club in Montreal in big league fashion costs about \$75,000.00 a season".<sup>20</sup> Chief among the expenses was \$6,500.00 spent on equipment, \$1,500.00 for trips to Hamilton and Toronto and \$700.00 for those to Ottawa. The total travelling expenses were \$7,500.00. In addition, Montreal paid 15 per cent of their gate receipts as stadium rental, while, 2 per cent was reserved for taxes. As for salaries:

Well-1-1-1, the Big Four is supposed to be an "amateur" loop but Hayman doesn't pretend that an American star like Virgil Wagner brings his family up to Canada for a few months vacation at his own expense. Nor does any team in the league pretend to be hanging on to the rather threadbare simon-pure code any longer. My own information, based on talks with the players themselves, is that Hayman's payroll was between \$35,000.00 and \$50,000.00 per season.<sup>21</sup>

An attempt to increase the prices of tickets for the Grey Cup

---

<sup>19</sup>Andy O'Brien, "Football Financing", Canadian Business, November, 1948, p. 28.

<sup>20</sup>Ibid.

<sup>21</sup>Ibid.





game to a top price of five dollars was defeated at the 1949 meeting of the C.R.U. The increase, proposed by the Westerners, would have raised revenues considerably but it was felt by the eastern delegates that it was too much of an increase to ask for in one year. A compromise solution was reached and the prices were increased to \$3.00, \$2.50 and \$2.00.

The mobility of players was increasing in 1949. Frank Filchok left the Hamilton Tigers for the Montreal Alouettes.

. . . Frank was to receive \$8,500.00 for the 1949 season and \$9,500.00 for the 1950 season, a total of \$18,000.00. In addition, he was to receive \$300.00 a month for a job, amounting to \$7,200.00 for two years, for an over-all total of \$25,200.00.<sup>22</sup>

Filchok's place with the Hamilton Tigers was taken by Merle Hapes, a former teammate of Filchok's with the Giants. Hapes had been suspended, as well as Filchok, by the N.F.L. Both were later reinstated by that body. The hero of the Hamilton followers, however, was Tom Casey, a player with the Wildcats.

The Argonauts decided to forget about an all-Canadian team and hired Americans Ed Mittelsteadt, Tex Whalen, Lou Corriere and Bill Rudick. The move toward importation on the part of the Argonauts caused Joe Krol to state publicly that Canadian football "is being ruined by Americanization".<sup>23</sup> He went on to say:

---

<sup>22</sup>Trent Fayne, "Halfbacks, Greenbacks and Red Ink", Maclean's, October 15, 1949, p. 29.

<sup>23</sup>Joe Krol, "Joe Krol says--They're Ruining Rugby", Maclean's, September 15, 1949, p. 13.





. . . The process has been hastened by the steady stream of American reading material which glorifies the U.S. gridiron hero. I think our own radio commentators are unwittingly strengthening the trend by the use of American football terminology.<sup>24</sup>

The West again expanded to a four-team league in 1949. Edmonton Eskimos, coached by Annis Stukus, entered the Western Interprovincial Football Union. A fourteen game schedule was put into effect in that union for the 1949 season. The Calgary Stampeders lost their outstanding performer of the 1948 Grey Cup game, Chuck Anderson, to the Montreal Alouettes. Calgary, however, signed some valuable additions from the American professional leagues, including Riley Matheson and "Sugarfoot" Anderson. In Saskatchewan, the Roughriders continued to recruit Eastern "imports" in an attempt to build up their Canadian player strength. Included among the Easterners were Pat Santucci, Matt Anthony and Dean Bandiera. The team's name was changed from the Regina to the Saskatchewan Roughriders in 1948. The intention behind the move was to have the whole of the province associated with the team rather than one city in the province. In Winnipeg, a new coach, Frank Larsen, was hired and that team aimed its recruiting at the larger universities such as Minnesota instead of the smaller American schools.

Exhibition games between the East and West continued to be played. Calgary flew to Montreal in August and was defeated by the Alouettes by a score of 14-13. Winnipeg was beaten by the Tigers 9-8 in Hamilton and 23-11 by the Argonauts in Toronto.

---

<sup>24</sup>Ibid., p. 26.



Although all teams had some players who were being paid, contracts were still the exception rather than the rule. The C.R.U. card was still a requirement for all players but, in 1949, an informal written contractual arrangement was being used by some teams. Typical of this informal contract was the one offered to Steve Mendryk, a first year player with the Edmonton Eskimos in 1949. (see Appendix C).

Calgary, again, won the Western title in 1949 and prepared to meet the Montreal Alouettes in the Grey Cup game. The gap between the Big Four and the O.R.F.U. teams was becoming increasingly wider as evidenced by the 40-0 score by which Montreal defeated the Hamilton Tigers in the Eastern Final. The Alouettes, led by "Flingin' Frankie" Filchok,\* defeated the Stampeders by a score of 28-15. It was Hayman's fifth Grey Cup victory as a coach.

Hayman's strategy for the game was to have Montreal's defensive tackles hitting Calgary's offensive ends on every play at the line of scrimmage. The result was that the timing for the passes from Spaith to Strode and Anderson was thrown off. By the time that the Stampeders' receivers had worked themselves free from the line of scrimmage, Montreal's defensive ends had tackled Spaith. Ted Reeve, in his characteristic doggerel, wrote:

In the quarterback passing of Spaith,  
The Westerners put all their faith,  
But the Montreal ends,  
Were not acting like friends,  
As they rushed him all over the plaith.<sup>25</sup>

---

\*The early years of the professional era are characterized by the abundant use of "nicknames", particularly among the American players. It seems that as professional football is more readily accepted, the "nicknames" disappear.

<sup>25</sup>Ted Reeve, op. cit., p. 31.





While the game attracted some twenty thousand people, the same as in 1948, the revenue, as a result of the increased ticket prices, almost doubled. In 1949, the gate receipts were \$47,000.00 compared with \$26,000.00 the previous year. Expenses were also increasing in 1949. Helmets cost \$28.75; shoulder pads \$25.00; hip and kidney pads \$16.00; pants were \$22.75; jerseys \$7.95; stockings \$2.75 and boots \$29.00 making a total of \$132.00 for each player's equipment.<sup>26</sup>

In 1950, the C.R.U. approved an increase in the number of imports for each team. Because of the demise of the All-American Conference in the United States, an increased number of American imports was suddenly available, and at lower prices. The limit, as a result, was raised from five to seven Americans for each team. A change was also made in the rules regarding interference. Linemen were allowed, on the kick-off, to interfere for the ball carrier in the twenty yard zone between the forty-five yard lines.

It was also agreed at the same meeting that the C.R.U. would send out player's certificates to each of the clubs by March 1 of 1950. In succeeding years they were to be available by January 1. Previously, the C.R.U. certificates (see Appendix C) had not been available until September 1 of the current season. As a result, players could not be registered with the C.R.U. before that date. The extension of the time also indicates the competitive nature of recruiting. Before 1950, a club could not be sure that a player whom they had contacted would not sign on with another team who

---

<sup>26</sup>J.A. Carrol, op. cit., p. 31.





offered more money. The extension was one way of solving this problem until the players' contracts assumed importance.

Expenses were also dealt with. It was decided that the competing teams would be allowed expenses for thirty players; ten days for the West's representatives and three for the East's. Previously, both teams were allowed expenses for 24 players; the West for six days and the East for two. Only one other rule change was made. After a field goal, the ball would be scrimmaged by the non-scoring team on the 35-yard line instead of the 40.

New faces appeared on almost every team as a result of the disbanding of the All-American Conference. One new team was also formed.

In Hamilton, the Wildcats of the Big Four and the Tigers of the O.R.F.U., decided to amalgamate. It was not economically feasible to operate two teams in the city of 170,000 people. The new name was a combination of the old names. Called the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, the new club held a city-wide contest to design the team colors. The final result was a combination of the yellow and black of the Tigers and the red, white and blue of the Wildcats. Carl Voyles, of the defunct Brooklyn Dodgers, was named coach and general manager. The Hamilton team's personnel included former professionals Vince Mazza, Jack Carpenter, Edgar Jones, Bill Gregus, Vince Scott, Ralph Sazio and Stan Heath. The centre on the team was Jake Gaudaur.

Toronto, meanwhile, had surprised many of its followers by announcing that Teddy Morris would be replaced as coach of the Argonauts. The new coach was an American, Frank Clair, whose signing created quite a stir when it was announced that he had never



seen a game of Canadian football. The Argonaut imports, a mixture of college and professionally trained players, included Billy Bass, Ulysses Curtis, Marvin Whaley, Al Dekdebrun, Leroy "Buckets" Hirsch and John Kerns. The Argonauts also announced that the Balmy Beach team of the O.R.F.U. would be subsidized by the Argonauts and operate as a "farm club" of the Interprovincial Union team.

In the West, the Winnipeg Blue Bombers announced that Tom Casey, the former Hamilton Wildcat star, would play with them in 1950. Casey wanted to attend medical school and was reported to be going to Montreal. When the McGill Medical School announced that it was filled, Casey enrolled at the University of Manitoba Medical College. Winnipeg also announced the signing of "Indian Jack" Jacobs, former Washington Redskin and Green Bay Packer, and Buddy Tinsley. Edmonton kept pace in the signing of imports by hiring Lindy Berry, Doug Brightwell, Don Narrel and Morris Bailey along with Rollin Prather and Bob Paffrath.

What possibly might have been the first of many trades in Canadian football was transacted in 1950. Saskatchewan Roughriders traded halfbacks Bob Early and Wilf Godfrey to Calgary in return for Bert Iannone.

Many players decided to use the increased demand for their services as a lever to obtain more money. The players, however, were encouraged in this regard by the various clubs who, in their desire to have a Grey Cup contender, were enticing players away from their teams. The Edmonton Eskimos, for example, had eleven former Argonauts on their roster as well as Jimmie Quondomatteo, who had played with the 1949 Montreal Alouettes. Calgary Stampeders lured





Royal Copeland away from the Toronto Argonauts while Montreal Alouettes, who in previous years had enticed Filchok, Ches McCance, Chuck Anderson and Lou Mogul away from various teams had, in 1950, coaxed Rod Pantages and Pete Thodos from Calgary.

As a direct result of the raiding, the C.R.U., at the instigation of Ted Reeve, instructed all clubs to insert a reserve clause in its contracts. The reserve clause, or, as it became known as later, the option clause "simply says that when a boy has been signed on the dotted line by his club, he can't go out and play with any other club without first obtaining a release from the outfit which originally lined him up."<sup>27</sup> The option clause served to "abolish the old reactionary, laissez-faire practice of players selling their services to the highest bidder".<sup>28</sup> As a result, the player was put into a position of having his bargaining power lessened. He did not have to accept the contract offered to him but "if he doesn't accept or reach some compromise, he just doesn't play and that's the end of it".<sup>29</sup> The option clause did, however, achieve its desired objective. It did serve to protect poorer clubs from the financially stronger ones and it forced the teams to develop their own "farm" systems among the junior and intermediate players.

As far as the Ontario government was concerned, the Big Four was a professional organization in 1950. Toronto, Hamilton and Ottawa were all informed that each ticket sold to their games would have to

---

<sup>27</sup>K. McIlroy, "Those Rugby Ructions", Saturday Night, May 16, 1950, p. 27.

<sup>28</sup>Ibid.

<sup>29</sup>Ibid.





include a 15 per cent amusement tax.<sup>30</sup>

In Eastern play, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, led by Edgar "Special Delivery" Jones, finished in first place with a record of seven wins and five losses. They lost to the Argonauts in the two-game total point series, the score being 35-19. Argonauts proceeded to defeat their "farm club", Balmy Beach, by a score of 43-13.

In the West, the first game of the play-offs between Edmonton and Winnipeg was played at night in Edmonton on November fourth. It was the first play-off game to be played at night, and it proceeded only after strenuous objection by Winnipeg. The game also attracted the largest crowd in the West at that time. Edmonton won the first game by a 17-16 score only to lose the next two by scores of 22-12 and 29-6.

The Grey Cup game of 1950 was played on an extremely muddy field and as result is known as the "Mud Bowl". Twenty-seven thousand spectators paid more than \$65,000.00 and saw the Argonauts defeat the Blue Bombers by a 13-0 score. Jack Jacobs did not live up to his notices, being severely hampered by the weather conditions. Easterners were quick to criticize him. Al Dekdebrun, meanwhile, playing with filed down thumb-tacks taped to the inside of his fingertips, was able to grip the wet ball more effectively. As a result of their successful season, the Argonauts were chosen Canada's team of the half century by the sportswriters and sportscasters. The criticism levelled at the C.R.U. because of the field conditions caused that body to purchase a tarpaulin at a cost of

---

<sup>30</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, April 29, 1950.



\$11,800.00 to be used for future Grey Cup games. It was in 1950 that the Grey Cup Dinner began. Originally held as a testimonial to the late Ross Trimble, the Dinner has, since that time, been one of the highlights of the Grey Cup Week's celebrations.

By the end of the 1950 season, the T-formation was firmly established in Canada among the majority of teams. Only Ottawa and Regina were still using a single wing or short punt formation. The use of movies as a coaching technique and a semblance of the two-platoon system were also in vogue. A curious trend developed, however. Having effectively controlled "raiding" of players among themselves, the Canadian teams turned to the "raiding" of American teams. George Trafton, the Winnipeg coach who replaced Frank Larsen in 1951, signed National Football League players Dick Huffman and Neill Armstrong to Winnipeg contracts. Huffman had played for the Los Angeles Rams while Armstrong had been a member of the Philadelphia Eagles. As a result, both American clubs sought court injunctions to restrain those players from joining the Winnipeg club. The Winnipeg lawyer, W.P. Fillimore, Q.C., argued that the National Football League's option clause was "so unilaterally drawn (in the club's favor) as to be worthless in a court of law".<sup>31</sup> Both Philadelphia and Los Angeles failed in their attempts to restrain Armstrong and Huffman from playing for Winnipeg.

Frank Filchok, who had signed a two year contract in 1949 before the reserve clause had come into use, moved from Montreal to Edmonton to play for the Eskimos. Montreal promptly signed George

---

<sup>31</sup>Tony Allen, Grey Cup Cavalcade, Winnipeg: Harlequin Books, 1959, p. 134.





Ratterman and started another controversy. Ratterman had played with the Brooklyn Dodgers in the All-American Conference. Montreal had a loose affiliation with the Brooklyn team and, as a result of this, knew all about Ratterman's prowess as a quarterback. When the Brooklyn team suspended operations, however, Ratterman's contract was assigned to the New York Yankees. Ratterman refused to report to New York and went instead to play for the Alouettes. His contract was reported widely to be in the area of \$20,000.00 for one year. New York sought a court injunction to prevent Ratterman from playing for another team. The injunction was, however, denied by the chancery division of the New Jersey Supreme Court.<sup>32</sup>

Another American professional made his way to the Saskatchewan capital. Glenn Dobbs was widely hailed when his signing was announced and so captivated the imagination of the Regina people that, during his stay, "Dobberville" was equated with Regina. "Attendance at Roughrider games was almost twice the city's population. Grown people, sane adults, drive around with improvised license plates reading: "Dobberville", Sask."<sup>33</sup>

In March, shortly after the announcement was made that Clem Crowe was to be the new coach of the Ottawa Rough Riders succeeding Wally Masters, there was speculation that the Grey Cup contest would be a two game affair rather than the traditional one game. If this were to be the case, it would mean the end of the semi-final game

---

<sup>32</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, November 6, 1951.

<sup>33</sup>K. McIlroy, "Canadian Football; Whence and Whither", Saturday Night, September 27, 1952, p. 21.





with the O.R.F.U. winner. Amid all the resulting furore an unidentified Big Four official remarked: "We don't want to offend the O.R.F.U. but then again, how can we run a million dollar business and expect to make money playing against the O.R.F.U."<sup>34</sup>

Some rule changes were made as a result of the C.R.U. meeting of 1951. Chief among these were the following: the horn, which had been the cause of much confusion, was replaced by a weighted handkerchief which was to be dropped by the official at the point of the infraction. The rule was at first greeted with much derision and radio commentators, especially, could always cause a chuckle among listeners when they announced that there was an infraction by saying "there's a hanky on the play". The "hanky" was eventually called a "flag".

It was also decided that one backfielder could block or interfere for ten yards, providing that he was the farthest player outside the end man on the line of scrimmage. The rule regarding an ineligible receiver was also changed. Previously, the passing team lost the ball but in 1951 this was changed to a loss of fifteen yards. As of 1951, a team could also lose a single point if it attempted an offside pass in the end zone. Previously, the ball had been given to the non-offending team on the offender's ten yard line. The meeting also reversed a ruling that it had made in mid-season of 1950. At that time, during a game between Montreal and Toronto, Filchok's kick was blocked. He picked up the loose ball and threw a pass which scored a touchdown. The officials at

---

<sup>34</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, March 9, 1951.



that time ruled the play illegal. The 1951 C.R.U. meeting declared that such a play would be allowed.<sup>35</sup>

The meeting also declared that the Grey Cup competition would be a one game affair, thus guaranteeing that the O.R.F.U. would be allowed to compete in the series; but that organization's days as a Cup competitor were numbered.

By virtue of four years of residence in Canada, Virgil Wagner of Montreal, Filchok of Edmonton, Howie "Touchdown" Turner of Ottawa and Del Wardien of Saskatchewan were all classified as Canadians. Measures were also taken to prevent "raiding" among the Canadian teams. A fine of \$1,000.00 would be levied against any Canadian team found guilty of tampering with the players of another Canadian team "unless the player is legally released from his club".<sup>36</sup> Calgary president Tom Brooks announced a motion calling for the unlimited importation of American players. His reason was that salaries among Canadians were getting to be too high. Unlimited importation, according to Brooks, "would keep Canadians from asking for outlandish salaries".<sup>37</sup> He went on to suggest that the clubs be allowed to "sign another six or seven imports under a maximum salary limit of \$1,500.00 . . . to keep the Canadian salaries from getting too high".<sup>38</sup> The motion was defeated by a vote of six to

---

<sup>35</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, March 10, 1951.

<sup>36</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, March 12, 1951.

<sup>37</sup>Ibid.

<sup>38</sup>Ibid.





three. It was announced also that prices for tickets to the Grey Cup game would be increased to \$5.00, \$4.00 and \$3.00.

The Toronto Argonauts, partly because of their post-war success, their huge stadium, the receipts which they refused to share with other teams, and their generally condescending attitude, were heartily disliked by almost every team in Canada. Yet, because of this and the rivalries it produced, the various clubs, especially in the Big Four, were careful not to antagonize the Argonauts. Joe Ryan, when asked why the other teams in the league did not outvote the Argonauts at league meetings, replied: "Can't, they'll withdraw".<sup>39</sup>

Football was growing quickly. Jim Vipond, writing in the Globe and Mail, suggested that it was time for Canadian football to acquire a commissioner. He also criticized the method of pay by the Canadian teams. Using the Argonauts as an example, he said that the team had a "no play, no pay clause"<sup>40</sup> and if a player were injured and missed the season because of it, he would only receive half of his salary. He went on to describe Canadian football as a "million dollar business operated peanut vendor style".<sup>41</sup> Vipond was also perturbed about the rule which prohibited a player from going to another team if his club released him after his having played one game. A game regulation which was a great source of irritation, not only to Vipond but also to every coach in the league, was the substitution rule. As it was in 1951, there was unlimited

---

<sup>39</sup>Trent Frayne, "Why They All Hate the Argos", Maclean's, September 1, 1951, p. 35.

<sup>40</sup>Jim Vipond, Article in the Toronto Globe and Mail, September 17, 1951.

<sup>41</sup>Ibid.





substitution, but the players had to report to the head linesman one play before entering the game. The rule was therefore suited to a "perfect" game with no fumbles, blocked kicks or interceptions. When these things happened, a team was caught with many of its wrong players on the field, and the desired players had to remain off the field for one play. As a result, one play was usually wasted, and by the time the correct players were on the field, they not only had to gain the necessary yardage for the first down, they had to do it in one less play.

The controversy of the season, however, was to take place in Toronto on the 3rd of November. On that day in a game between the Argonauts and the Rough Riders, Peter Karpuk of Ottawa stunned the large crowd in attendance by leaving the bench to tackle Uly Curtis and thereby prevent him from scoring an apparent touchdown. The incident took place at the Ottawa twenty-four yard line and referee Seymour Wilson, in accordance with the rules, marched off a half the distance to the goal-line penalty thus giving the Argonauts possession at Ottawa's twelve yard line. Wilson further removed Karpuk from the game for three minutes, forcing Ottawa to play with eleven men for that period of time. Frank Clair argued that Toronto deserved a touchdown. While he was thus arguing, Jimmie Simpson, the umpire, informed Wilson that W.C. Foulds, the Big Four's chairman of officials, thought the ball should be given to the Argonauts on the Ottawa one yard line.

Clem Crowe said if this happened, he would draw his team from the field, a little matter which could have cost the Ottawa club a league fine of \$10,000.00. Crowe was only a piker in this regard because Bob Moran, the



Argonaut president, twice went to the side lines to tell co-captain Rod Smylie to call the Argonaut players from the field. Rod talked his president out of this.<sup>42</sup>

Karpuk's stunning move was, apparently, not entirely accidental. It was influenced by the coaching of Wally Masters.

"I was talking to Jake Dunlap after the game", the Argo halfback (Doug Smylie) said, "and he told me that he was right behind Karpuk, but that Pete got on the field before he could. Jake played with us in '48 and I guess he remembered what Wally had said just as Karpuk did."<sup>43</sup>

Much of the clamor surrounding the incident subsided quickly as a result of the Argonauts subsequently scoring and winning the game. The play has, however, come to be known notoriously as a "karpuk".

By November 7, Dave McCann, chairman of the C.R.U., rules committee, issued a statement on the Karpuk incident. The new rule stated that if the occurrence were to happen again, by one or more players, the penalty would be:

1. Disqualification of the offending player or players from further participation in the game.
2. The ruling off for not less than 5 minutes one player of the offending side for each player so disqualified.
3. The awarding of first down to the attacking side on the defending side's one yard line.<sup>44</sup>

In the midst of all this controversy, it was announced that Montreal's quarterback, George Ratterman, was returning to the N.F.L. Ratterman, without the benefit of adequate pass protection, did not live up to advance expectations. He had the foresight,

---

<sup>42</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, November 5, 1951.

<sup>43</sup>Ibid.

<sup>44</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, November 7, 1951.





however, to have a clause inserted in his contract to the effect that he would become a "free" agent at the end of the season.<sup>45</sup>

Ratterman went to New York and was reinstated by the National Football League. He was, however, fined by that body the sum of \$2,000.00 for "action detrimental to the welfare of the National Football League and professional football".<sup>46</sup>

Ottawa drew a bye in the Big Four league when, at the end of the season's play, Hamilton, Ottawa and Toronto were tied for first place. Hamilton defeated Toronto in their meeting but lost to Ottawa by scores of 17-7 and 11-9 in the two-game total-point series. As Ottawa prepared to meet Sarnia in the Eastern championship game, another controversy erupted. This one threatened to deny the Canadian championship game of the Grey Cup as a symbol of national superiority.

A group of Sarnia business and sportsmen stated that Sarnia was the only senior team in Canada qualified to play for the Grey Cup. With Dave Harding, the former Queen's, Ottawa and Camp Borden player acting as spokesman, the group based its claim on two sections of the C.R.U. constitution.

The first under Aim and Object, says: The primary object shall be the furtherance of amateur rugby football throughout the Dominion of Canada. Its secondary object shall be the bringing together annually (if and when it is possible to do so) representatives from its affiliated unions in a series of contests for the amateur championship of Canada. The second section under the title of Trophies says, "the trophy to be competed for in the senior series shall be known as the Earl Grey Cup presented by the late Earl Grey, former Governor-General of Canada, as emblematic of amateur rugby football championship of Canada".<sup>47</sup>

---

<sup>45</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, November 6, 1951.

<sup>46</sup>Ibid. <sup>47</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, November 17, 1951.





The protest was denied however, and in Montreal, Myer Insky, the C.R.U. president, said that "the winning club will be awarded the trophy notwithstanding any such protest".<sup>48</sup> Ottawa played and defeated Sarnia by the score of 43-17.

The Grey Cup game was played before more than 27,000 spectators, resulting in gate receipts of approximately \$115,000.00. In the game Ottawa defeated Regina by the score of 21-14. For only the second time, a player was removed from the game, Jake Dunlap being ejected for arguing with the referee. As a result of Regina's loss, the coach of the Roughriders, Harry "Black Jack" Smith, suffered the same fate as Winnipeg's coach in 1950. He was fired, and replaced by Glenn Dobbs in 1952.

At the C.R.U. meeting of 1952, it was evident that the two professional leagues in Canada, the Interprovincial Rugby Football Union and the Western Interprovincial Football Union, were tiring of the "interference" of the other leagues. Incoming president, Art Chipman, considered the voting set-up unfair. He was of the opinion that the Western Intercollegiate Union and the Quebec Union should not have a vote in the C.R.U. because neither of these unions were operating senior teams. He also thought that the Eastern Intercollegiate Union should be denied a vote since that Union had not competed in the Grey Cup series for many years. Chipman stated:

Let them attend meetings and speak for what they think is progress for football but why should they have a vote in the affairs of individuals who are committed to an expenditure of two million dollars?<sup>49</sup>

---

<sup>48</sup>Ibid.

<sup>49</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, February 22, 1952.



Chipman proposed that a game be played between the runners-up in the East and the West with part of the proceeds to go to the O.R.F.U. "Let the O.R.F.U. admit it", Chipman stated, "it can't honestly hope to win the Eastern Canada final. Let them have part of the proceeds of the consolation game."<sup>50</sup> He further stated that he was afraid that Canadian teams were leading themselves into ruin. His reasoning:

"One team in the west has committed itself to a quarter million dollar budget for the next season. That's out of all proportion. Two or three bad playing days and the whole set-up, East and West is gone."<sup>51</sup>

The trend toward the Americanization of the game continued in 1952. The number of imports allowed was increased from seven to eight, and, in deference to the coaches, the substitution rule was changed to allow any number of substitutes to enter the game without reporting to an official. Back-fielders were allowed to block on a kick-off, to the point from where the ball was kicked. As a result of another change, the ball, after going into touch, was brought on to the field to a point 15 yards in from the sidelines instead of the previous ten. A direct result of this rule was the agitation to make the touchdown worth six points instead of five. "Why should two field goals be worth more than a touch-down"<sup>52</sup> the argument went. The legislators also sought to ensure that the "Karpuk Incident" would not be repeated. It was decided that, in such a case, the penalty

---

<sup>50</sup>Ibid.

<sup>51</sup>Ibid.

<sup>52</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, February 25, 1952.





would be half the distance to the goal line and the non-offending team would have three attempts to score, regardless of how much time was left in the game. If the referee were of the opinion that a touchdown would have been scored had the illegality not occurred, he could award the touchdown to the non-offending team.

It was in 1952 that a draft of Canadian college players was constituted between the eastern Big Four teams. They sought to equalize Canadian talent among their members by instituting a system whereby the last place finisher in the league had first choice of the graduating college players. It put a stop to the practice of players using the contract offer of one club to bargain for more money from another. Because the West was not included in the draft, many Canadian college players used Western teams as their bargaining levers.

Toronto Argonauts showed how wealthy they had become, by the acquisition of two sets of uniforms. They departed from the traditional "double blue", and for home games wore white pants, light blue sweaters and white helmets, while during out-of-town games they wore light blue pants, dark blue sweaters and white helmets.

In the West, the only Canadian coach among the I.R.F.U. and the W.I.F.U., Annis Stukus, was replaced by Frank Filchok. The Edmonton team finished in second place in the West. They played a two-game, total-points semi-final series with Calgary. In the first game the Stampeders, led by Bob Shaw, defeated the Eskimos by a score of 31-12. As a result there erupted a "fire Filchok" movement in Edmonton. The jeers turned to cheers, however, when in the next game Edmonton defeated Calgary by a score of 30-7, erasing





the Stampeders' 19 point lead and winning the round 42-38. Filchock had earned a respite but Calgary fired their coach, Les Lear.

In the Western final series with Winnipeg, Edmonton again lost the first game, this time by the score of 28-12. The Eskimos, however, defeated the Blue Bombers in the next two games, 18-12 and 22-11 to win the Western championship. Hamilton Tiger-Cats finished in first place again in the East and lost the first game to the Toronto Argonauts by a margin of 16 points. In the second game they defeated the Argonauts by the same margin of 16 points. A third game was therefore necessary and the Argonauts, by the barest of margins, defeated the Tiger-Cats by the score of 12-7. The Argonauts had little difficulty in defeating the Sarnia Imperials by the score of 34-15.

In the Grey Cup game, the Argonauts continued their winning ways to defeat the Eskimos 21-10 largely due to the play of "Nobby" Wirkowski and Al Bruno. It was the second Grey Cup victory for Frank Clair but for Frank Filchock the tradition which had started in the West after the 1950 Grey Cup game was continued. The losing coach, in this case Filchock, was fired. A new source of revenue was introduced into the receipts of the Grey Cup game in 1952. Television station CBLT in Toronto paid \$7,500.00 to televise the Grey Cup game. It was the only station to carry the game "live" in Canada.

Having solved the "raiding" problem among its own various leagues, the Canadian teams turned their attention increasingly towards the United States in order to recruit players. It apparently made no difference as to whether the players were under contract or option to the National Football League teams.



At Ottawa, the Rough Riders signed John Kissel from the Cleveland Browns. The American team promptly filed an injunction in the Ontario Supreme Court to prevent Kissel from playing with the Big Four team. The Ottawa lawyer, Sam Berger, filed a statement of defence which alleged that the N.F.L. was a combine. It further stated that "a scheme exists between the Browns and the National Football League to keep all players in its employment in servitude".<sup>53</sup> Ottawa's action infuriated Bert Bell, the commissioner of the N.F.L. He stated:

I will never sign any agreement with the Canadian football leagues as long as I am the commissioner. We shouldn't need a signed agreement to be honest. We have legal contracts with players. The Canadian contracts are almost duplicates of ours. If they refuse to recognize ours, as in the Kissel case, what good would an agreement be? The only reason we are fighting the Kissel case in court is to get a ruling that our contracts are legal and binding. Kissel himself doesn't matter one bit. He's a veteran and about through.<sup>54</sup>

Jim McCaffrey stated that if he lost the Kissel case, he would sue to get back Gene Gedman and Marvin Matuszak. Each of these players, it was stated, had signed contracts with Ottawa and later disregarded those contracts to sign with N.F.L. teams, Gedman with Detroit and Matuszak with Pittsburgh. "The Ottawa boss figures that if Detroit and Pittsburgh can take players he signed, he's entitled to pick one or two they signed".<sup>55</sup>

Hamilton was also having contract difficulties. Stan Heath sued the Tiger-Cats for ten thousand dollars. He claimed that he

---

<sup>53</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, September 11, 1953.

<sup>54</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, September 19, 1953.

<sup>55</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, September 29, 1953.





signed a non-release contract with the club for \$9,500.00. That figure, he stated, was for the regular season. In addition, he was to be paid an additional \$700.00 for each play-off game.<sup>56</sup> Heath stated that he had played with Calgary in 1952 for \$8,500.00. Voyles contacted him in Calgary and asked him if he could get his release from the Stampeders. A trade was eventually worked out with Calgary and when Heath reported to Hamilton, he signed a contract. On the back of the contract was an appendix, written in ink, stating:

This is a non-release(sic) but it is understood Stan is to keep himself in good physical condition and to conduct himself in such a way as not to bring discredit to the T.C. Football Club.<sup>57</sup>

After an appearance by former Calgary Coach Bob Snyder at Heath's trial in 1954, the case was eventually settled out of court.

The "raiding", as previously indicated, was not all one way in 1953. The San Francisco 49ers of the National Football League signed Calgary's outstanding backfielder John Henry Johnson after the 1953 season. Johnson had played with the Stampeders in 1953 and that team had an option for his services in 1954. It further served to indicate the unwillingness of teams on both sides of the border to respect each other's contracts.

There were other significant developments in 1953, many of which indicated that the West was adapting itself to professionalism more quickly and effectively than the East. At the C.R.U. meeting,

---

<sup>56</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, September 23, 1953.

<sup>57</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, November 25, 1953.





the western delegates moved that the name of the Canadian Rugby Union be changed to the Canadian Football Union "because we're not playing rugby but football".<sup>58</sup> They also moved that a touchdown be worth six points rather than five and that backfielders be allowed to block for ten yards in advance of the line of scrimmage. All these motions were defeated in 1953 but all were to be passed eventually. The Western Union also made another move which eventually was adopted by the professional leagues; G. Sydney Halter was appointed commissioner of the West.

Changes were made in the rules. On a kick-off, there was unlimited blocking allowed by the receiving team. For the first time, a "tee" could be used on the kick-off but it could not elevate the ball more than one inch off the ground. The "screen pass", a pass completed behind the line of scrimmage, was allowed. Previously, a pass, in order to be completed behind the line of scrimmage, had to be thrown underhand and was called a "shovel pass". Once again, ticket prices were increased. Seats at the 1953 Grey Cup game were to be \$6.00, \$5.00, and \$3.50.

As another means of banding together in order to keep competition between the rival Western teams on the football field, the Western Union introduced the negotiation list in 1953. This was a list of players over whom a club was given exclusive playing rights. It not only "froze" a player to a team, it guaranteed territorial exclusiveness to each of the member teams. In part, this was the West's answer to the draft system in the East.

---

<sup>58</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, March 30, 1953.



An indication that the West had caught up with the East in the matter of Canadian talent came early in 1953. In one of four exhibition games played between the East and the West, on August 17, the Winnipeg Blue Bombers defeated the Toronto Argonauts by a 24-0 score. The significance was in the fact that with Winnipeg winning by an 18-0 score and approximately three minutes to play, George Trafton replaced all of his Americans with Canadians. Led by former McGill quarterback, Geoff Crain, Winnipeg scored a touchdown in six plays.

In accordance with the growing popularity of football, a new stadium was built in Winnipeg. In it, a new western attendance record was set when, in the second game of the Western finals, a gathering of 17,434 spectators watched Winnipeg defeat the Eskimos by a 21-17 score. Edmonton, coached by Darrell Royal, won the first game by a score of 25-7. The deciding game was won by Winnipeg after Winnipeg defensive halfback Dave Skrein intercepted a Claude Arnold pass with less than two minutes to play and the score tied 24-24. Skrein, after running some thirty yards, lateralled the ball to Tom Casey, who ran an additional sixty yards for a touchdown, making the final score 30-24. The Western winners were not, however, automatically assured of a berth in the Grey Cup game. It had been ruled that the O.R.F.U. winners would travel to the West to play a semi-final game there. Before 15,000 spectators at Winnipeg Stadium, the Blue Bombers defeated the Toronto Balmy Beaches by a 24-4 margin.

In the East, eight imports were allowed to participate in any one game but each team could carry eleven imports on its roster. Montreal was allowed to play nine imports because of its last place





finish in 1952. The Alouettes, coached by Douglas "Peahead" Walker, boasted such fine individual stars as Sam Etcheverry, John "Red" O'Quinn, Hal Patterson and Joey Pal. They met the Hamilton Tiger-Cats for the Big Four championship. Hamilton, led by "Butch" Songin, Bernie Custis, and Tip Logan, defeated the Alouettes by scores of 37-12 and 22-11.

Whereas one television station had carried the Grey Cup game "live" in 1952, three carried it in 1953. Those watching on television and the 27,313 in attendance, saw one of the most exciting games ever to be played in a Grey Cup contest. The game ended with Winnipeg on Hamilton's two yard line. On the last play of the game, Jacobs threw a pass to the left intended for Tom Casey. Lou Kusserow, sensing the pass to Casey, left Neill Armstrong unguarded in the end zone and, simultaneously with the ball, made contact with Casey. The ball dropped from the hands of Casey and Hamilton was victorious by a 12-7 score. Ted Reeve wrote this impression of the hard-hitting game:

Etched in the memory, though, of this strife will be three clearly defined pictures . . .

Firstly, that number 62 jersey--Huffman, moving around in the manner usually reserved for kodiak bears. Piling up interference, leading his ball carriers knocking down the plays that were coming his way and then sliding to the other side to overtake the traffic that was going that direction.

Two . . . that last march of the Bombers. . . . As the roar started to roll down from the crowd and the cold wind cut across the waning sunshine. The huddle, the quick precision march step of those huge men in the deep navy blue, up to formation . . . the tall Indian just back of them and his fast four movers crouched for action. Another first down and the clash doming to a crescendo.

Finally . . . a gladiator . . . man named Mazza . . . picking himself from the end of the bench . . . shaking





off a season of bruises and aches . . . they point him in the right direction, the wonderful big stiff trundles into position and a tattered battalion came up to give us a finish that the Iron Duke would have cherished.<sup>59</sup>

For George Trafton, the closeness of the loss was of no importance, it was still a loss. His fate was similar to his Western predecessors. He was fired.

Early in 1954, the "Karpuk incident" was recalled by a similar one in the United States. During the radio broadcast of the Cotton Bowl game played at Dallas, Texas, the announcer described the scene as Alabama's Tommy Lewis jumped off the bench to tackle Dick Moegle. "Out of the blue sky with no further explanation, the radio announcer commented 'Karpuk has done that a couple of times'."<sup>60</sup>

Not all of the publicity being received by Canadian football was favorable in 1954. The N.F.L., upset by the Canadian signings in 1953, particularly that of Billy Vessels by the Edmonton Eskimos, hired former Calgary coach Bob Snyder as a public relations man. Snyder's position involved travelling to various colleges in the United States to explain the "true" situation in Canadian football.

The player "raiding" continued from both sides of the border. Baltimore Colts signed Bernie Flowers who was under contract to Ottawa. The Colts, angered by the loss of their draft choices, indicated that they were also interested in two other Canadian players, Kaye Vaughan and Billy Vessels. The proposed British Columbia entry in the W.I.F.U. created a stir when it announced

---

<sup>59</sup>Ted Reeve, op. cit., p. 127.

<sup>60</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, January 2, 1954.



the signing of Arnie Weinmeister who was at that time under option to the New York Giants. As far as the National League was concerned, the time had come for retaliation. Bert Bell stated: "Weinmeister is under contract to the Giants. The Canadian Leagues have breached our contracts. They had better start counting their players".<sup>61</sup>

The irrepressible McCaffrey injected some humor into the situation. New York thought that Ottawa was tampering with Weinmeister and John Mara, the Giants' owner, wrote to McCaffrey. In his letter, Mara enclosed a clipping from a newspaper which linked Ottawa and Weinmeister. The envelope was sent by registered mail and contained a letter which stated that if Ottawa had any intentions of signing Weinmeister, the Giants would take legal action. McCaffrey stated:

"So I copied the letter, word for word, except that I put the name of Bernie Flowers in where Mara's letter said Arnie Weinmeister and I sent it on to Don Killet of Baltimore Colts, who had just signed Flowers, who was on option clause with us."<sup>62</sup>

The signing of Weinmeister by British Columbia almost prevented that team from joining the W.I.F.U. The Lions, however, despite objections from Saskatchewan, were admitted after having demonstrated that they met the conditions imposed upon them. The Lions had to sell at least 6,500 season tickets by May 1st of 1954, have a stadium capable of seating 11,000 persons and agree to subsidize the extra travelling expenses of the prairie teams. By the end of January, the Lions had more than 8,000 season tickets sold and were guaranteed the use of the new stadium built for the British Empire Games.

---

<sup>61</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, January 22, 1954.

<sup>62</sup>Ibid.





They agreed to pay the extra travelling costs.

The O.R.F.U., because of the semi-final game between that union and the West, was revitalized. The West indicated at its annual meeting, that it wanted to play the game again in 1954. It served the Western body as a preparation for the Grey Cup game. The other teams in the O.R.F.U. were envious of the \$16,000.00 that the Balmy Beach club received for the 1953 game, and it served as an inducement for the others to develop a strong team. The four teams, each allowed four imports, were: Toronto Balmy Beach, Kitchener-Waterloo Dutchmen, Sarnia Imperials and the Brantford Redmen.

At the C.R.U. annual meeting, it was decided that clubs could again play eight imports but "a club will not be permitted to carry more than three Canadianized American players as non-imports".<sup>63</sup> The C.R.U. definition of the import was: "any player who is not a bona-fide citizen by September 1, of the playing year".<sup>64</sup>

The Big Four received a financial boost in 1954 as a result of television. A total of \$350,000.00 was received from the C.B.C. and N.B.C. networks. In 1953, the league had voted to limit the players' salaries to \$117,000.00<sup>65</sup> for each team and one of the first moves made by the Big Four after the lucrative T.V. contract was signed, was to increase the number of Americans from eight to nine per team for the 1954 season. As the season progressed, the power of the Montreal Alouettes was evident. Sam Etcheverry was

---

<sup>63</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, March 29, 1954.

<sup>64</sup>Ibid.

<sup>65</sup>Frank Clair. "The Inside Story: Why I Quit Canadian Football", Liberty, September, 1955, p. 24.





easily the best quarterback in the country and Alex Webster was one of the best running backs.

The new dynasty in the West was not unnoticed as the Edmonton Eskimos defeated Winnipeg and then Kitchener to represent the West in the Grey Cup game. The Eskimos, coached by "Pop" Ivy had an imposing array of talent. Johnny Bright who had been acquired from Calgary, established himself as one of the best defensive players in the West and Normie Kwong, the "China Clipper" was almost impossible to stop before he gained five yards. With Parker, Miles, Faloney, Dean, Keys, Volcan, Nelson, Morris and Anderson, the Eskimos worked their new Split-T offense to perfection. In the Split-T the linemen assumed their stance approximately four feet away from each other. This forced the defensive team to widen its line also. Taking advantage of the unlimited motion allowed in the Canadian game, Ivy, by means of clever faking in the backfield and brush blocking techniques in the line, created an almost unstoppable team.

The game itself will be remembered by many for its dramatic finish. With the score 25-20 for Montreal and less than three minutes to play, Montreal moved down the field to the Edmonton ten yard line. On a wide play to the left, Chuck Hunsinger was hit by Rollie Prather and either fumbled or attempted to lateral the ball to a teammate. The ball was loose and Jackie Parker picked it up, racing 95 yards for the tying points. The tension increased when Eagle Keys, the Edmonton centre, limped onto the field in order to centre the ball for convert. Keys, in spite of a hairline fracture of the tibia, snapped the ball, and Bob Dean ignored the pressure



to kick the winning point to make the final score: Edmonton 26, Montreal 25.

The "raiding" war between the Canadian leagues and the National Football League reached its climax in 1955. The new year was less than one week old when the New York Giants announced that they had signed Alex Webster, the fine Montreal halfback. Webster, who was paid \$7,200.00 by the Alouettes, was to be paid \$9,000.00 by the Giants.<sup>66</sup> Two days later it was announced that Carl Voyles would be questioned in a Miami court in connection with the \$325,000.00 damage suit filed against him and the Hamilton Tiger-Cats by the Chicago Bears. The suit, which was filed in the Spring of 1954, was the result of the signing by the Tiger-Cats of Frank Dempsey, a Chicago player. The Bears were also asking for a court order "enjoining the Hamilton team from recruiting the Bears' players".<sup>67</sup> On January 8, it was announced that Sam Etcheverry had signed two contracts for the 1955 season, one with the Chicago Cardinals and one with the Alouettes. He signed the Chicago contract on January 4 and the Montreal contract on January 6. Etcheverry stayed with the Alouette team.

The strategy of the National League teams seemed to be to either sign the best players of the Canadian teams or, failing this, to increase the Canadian teams' salary expenses by equipping the Canadian players with an effective bargaining lever. The New York Giants, after having concentrated on American players, directed

---

<sup>66</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, January 8, 1955.

<sup>67</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, January 7, 1955.





their attention to the native born Canadian players. Six members of the Toronto Argonauts were invited to try out with the New York team. All were Canadians and one, Bill McFarlane, the Big Four leader in interceptions in 1954, "said his letter offered him \$7,000.00."<sup>68</sup> One of the reasons that Toronto was being singled out in the N.F.L. offensive was Harry Sonshine. In December of 1954, Sonshine, an Argonaut director, announced that none of the club's 1954 imports would be invited back in the next season. The "Argo Bounce"\* had suddenly acquired a new meaning. The result was a storm of protest from every team in Canada, the Toronto followers and from the N.B.C. television network.

Sonshine's next move was to visit a number of American cities in order to recruit players. Many of the players to whom he talked were with the N.F.L. teams. They, of course, even if they did not sign with Toronto, used Sonshine's offer to bargain with their own club for a better salary. Sonshine returned with the signatures of eight N.F.L. stars, many of whom were under contract to teams in that league. The other members of the Big Four, particularly Hamilton, were worried that Toronto's action would result in high expenses for the league, something it was felt could not be afforded. The Argonauts, after delaying the offering of a new contract to Frank Clair, offered him one that had a release clause which stated that he could be fired with one week's notice.<sup>69</sup> Clair, who was paid \$12,500.00 as head

---

<sup>68</sup> Toronto Globe and Mail, January 11, 1955.

<sup>69</sup> Frank Clair, op. cit., p. 68.

\*A term originally associated with the ball taking a bounce advantageous to the Argonauts.





coach, resigned and was replaced by Bill Swiacki, formerly of the New York Giants. Swiacki was paid \$14,00.00 plus a \$1,000.00 bonus if the Argonauts won the Big Four Championship and an additional \$1,000.00 if they won the Grey Cup. Two assistant coaches were hired: Jim Martin from the Detroit Lions and Bill Early from Notre Dame. Both were paid \$12,500.00. Clair previously had been told that he could have one assistant whose pay was to be \$5,000.00 for that year.<sup>70</sup>

At the annual meeting of the Big Four on January 15, the Argonauts received much criticism from the other three clubs. They outvoted the Argonauts and passed a resolution stating that "any player who was under contract or option to an N.F.L. club" would be ineligible for the 1955 season. In addition to the criticism of the Argonauts, there were a certain number of other changes made by the Big Four. A new play-off system was put into effect for the 1955 season, designed to allow more teams to participate and therefore increase the revenue. The third place finisher was to meet the second place team in a sudden death game with the winner to meet the first place team in the championship game. The idea of a "split gate" was finally accepted. Visiting teams were to "receive 15% of home gates in 1955 after rental and taxes have been deducted from the gross gate".<sup>72</sup> It appeared that the N.F.L. offensive had its effect. A five man committee was chosen to meet with the N.F.L. commissioner

---

<sup>70</sup>Ibid.

<sup>71</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, January 17, 1955.

<sup>72</sup>Ibid.



in order to arrive at a mutually benefitting solution to the player problem. Ralph Cooper, the league president, was appointed to head the delegation.

After the Western Interprovincial Football meeting later in January, it was announced by that body that a play-off game with the O.R.F.U. was no longer desired. The W.I.F.U. and the I.R.F.U. both scheduled their games so as not to leave a date open for the traditional game with the O.R.F.U.

At a special meeting of the Big Four, lasting eight hours, the Argonauts were given permission to keep four of the imports that they had signed. Those remaining were "to be turned over to the league for disposition among the other three teams".<sup>73</sup>

There were some significant developments at the C.R.U. meeting of 1955. Vancouver was chosen as the site of the Grey Cup game for that year. It was also decided that the O.R.F.U. would not challenge for the Cup.

Don Downey, president of the O.R.F.U. stood up to announce that his league would not challenge for the Grey Cup in 1955 breaking a 45 year tradition of a cup semi-final. Downey emphasized that the announcement concerned only 1955 and his league will "definitely challenge for the cup in 1956."<sup>74</sup>

Ten imports could be allowed in the Cup final but each of the Unions was to be allowed to set its own limit for the season. Admission prices were increased once again with "a top of \$7.50 to \$2.00 for rigidly controlled standing room accommodation".<sup>75</sup>

---

<sup>73</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, February 7, 1955.

<sup>74</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, March 26, 1955.

<sup>75</sup>Ibid.





A number of personnel changes were made in the West during the year. At Winnipeg Allie Sherman had replaced George Trafton as coach and the Blue Bombers exhibited an exciting new runner, Leo Lewis. Calgary, with Don Klosterman at quarterback, and Saskatchewan, with Frank Tripucka, relied mostly on a passing game. In Vancouver, the British Columbia Lions improved to the extent that they won five games in only their second year of competition. They also set a Western attendance record by attracting 29,000 spectators for their first game against the Grey Cup champion Edmonton Eskimos. Those same Eskimos continued their winning ways and finished the sixteen game schedule with fourteen wins and only two losses. In the Western play-offs, they defeated the Winnipeg Blue Bombers rather handily, winning 29-6 and 26-6.

In the East, the Argonauts, with their four N.F.L. imports, Tom Dublinski, Gil Mains, Billy Shipp and Bill Allbright, started slowly and finished in third place. In the Eastern Semi-final, the Argonauts defeated Hamilton by the score of 32-28. The Argonauts barely missed winning the Eastern championship, losing to the Alouettes by a 38-36 score.

There was a great amount of eager expectation both in the East and in the West concerning the renewal of the meeting between Edmonton and the Montreal. The Eskimo supporters were convinced that Edmonton's victory in 1954 would be repeated in 1955, while the Montreal supporters were just as convinced that it would not be. In preparation for the game, it was announced that Hugh Ritchie, who kicked off during the first Grey Cup game for Varsity in 1909, would perform the ceremonial kickoff in Vancouver. It was also the first Grey Cup





game to be broadcast in French. Radio station C.K.A.C. of Montreal and a network of twelve stations were to broadcast the description of the game rendered by Marc Pilon and Yvon Blais. It marked the first time, too, that the game was sent via short wave radio to armed forces bases in Europe."<sup>76</sup> Tape recordings were to be flown to the Far East for Canadian troops stationed in Korea and Indo China.

A record attendance of 30,417 saw the Edmonton Eskimos defeat the Montreal Alouettes for the second consecutive year. The score was 34-19. Sam Etcheverry put on a brilliant display of passing, completing thirty of thirty-nine for a total of 508 yards. Edmonton, however, was relentless in its ball control and proved to its followers that the 1955 victory, certainly, was not accidental.

The receipts, an estimated \$315,000.00 were an all-time high.

They included:

Gate receipts.....	\$228,000.00
Television.....	55,000.00
Radio.....	20,000.00
Films.....	10,000.00
Program rights.....	2,500.00

After expenses and the C.R.U. percentage, the Big Four and the Western Interprovincial Football Union divided an estimated \$180,000.00.<sup>77</sup>

The 1955 season ended with the East-West Shrine game being played at Toronto's Varsity Stadium on December 3. An attendance of fifteen thousand spectators saw both teams play to a 6-6 tie.

---

<sup>76</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, September 25, 1955.

<sup>77</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, November 28, 1955.



1956 - 1960

Having effectively by-passed the O.R.F.U., the two professional leagues assumed a measure of unity in 1956. At a special meeting of the Eastern and the Western leagues held in Winnipeg during the weekend of January 22, the Canadian Football Council was formed. It marked the "first time that professional football clubs in Canada came under the jurisdiction of one body without outside interference".<sup>78</sup> The Council was more like a governing body for the two leagues, a loose federation made necessary because of common interests. One of the first acts of the ten man ruling body was to give "Ralph Cooper power to make a peaceful living arrangement with the National Football League through its commissioner, Bert Bell."<sup>79</sup> Cooper, of Hamilton, was named Chairman; Ralph Misener of Winnipeg was named Vice-Chairman and G. Sydney Halter was named Registrar.

Just prior to the formation of the Canadian Football Council, the Big Four followed the West's example and named a Commissioner for its league, Judge Allan Fraser. Halter was renamed the Commissioner of the Western league. In an effort to re-organize itself along business-like lines, the Canadian Football Council, in addition to seeking a solution to the raiding war with the N.F.L., expanded the College draft to include all nine professional teams, approved a negotiation list for each of its teams and announced a fine of \$1,000.00 "to be assessed against clubs which permit their lists or portions of

---

<sup>78</sup> Toronto Globe and Mail, January 24, 1956.

<sup>79</sup> Ibid.





it to be exposed to press, radio or T.V. eyes".<sup>80</sup> The meeting also decided to raise the visiting teams' share of the gate from fifteen per cent to twenty-five. The waiver price, the price which the "claiming team" had to pay to the "releasing team" for a player's rights, was set at \$750.00 in the case of an American and \$500.00 for a Canadian.

Although the professional leagues were bound together in the Canadian Football Council, that body still operated within the Canadian Rugby Union. When the C.R.U. meeting was held in March of 1956, it was obvious that the Canadian Football Council was in control of the C.R.U. Don Downey, the past president of the O.R.F.U., made a one hour impassioned speech asking that the Ontario Union be allowed, once again, to challenge for the Grey Cup. Downey "tired of banging his head on the concrete professional bloc and graciously withdrew".<sup>81</sup> Regarding the Grey Cup game, incoming president Ken Montgomery insisted that all players in the National Final wear stockings. He stated that "a player couldn't look neat unless he wore stockings. 'In the National Football League, they insist on players wearing stockings'. Ergo, if they do it in the N.F.L., it must be good for the Grey Cup."<sup>82</sup> Ticket prices were increased again for the Cup game. The new prices were \$10.00, \$7.50, \$6.00 and \$5.00.

Perhaps the most contentious change was the one which changed the value of the touchdown, as it was now officially known, from five

---

<sup>80</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, January 23, 1956.

<sup>81</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, March 5, 1956.

<sup>82</sup>Ibid.





to six points. To many it appeared to be an unnecessary move and one which only served to show how rapidly the Canadian game was being Americanized. The Globe and Mail wrote:

Bert Warwick, chairman of the rules committee, read his report which recommended 10 rule changes. Item number six, appropriately, concerned the six-point touchdown. When Warwick sat down, Edmonton's Ken Montgomery promptly moved for adoption. Leo Dandurand of Montreal interceded, lauded Warwick and his committee, applauded most of the changes, but challenged the need for re-evaluating the TD to six points. He called it a "flight of fancy". Bobby Coulter, Intercollegiate representative, delivered a sensible and intelligent rebuttal to any change. Frank Commins, president of the O.R.F.U., also spoke strongly to retain the five-point score.

No one spoke on behalf of the six-point touchdown.

Montgomery prodded Warwick to explain the background of the recommendation. It's quite possible that Warwick wasn't even in agreement with the change, but he had been given his instructions by the Western powers. The explanations forthcoming were extremely illogical. They included:

- (1) A team scoring a converted touchdown should be entitled to win from a team which could score two field goals without getting inside the enemy's forty yard line. (Rebuttal--that would mean two field goals kicked from a minimum of 47 yards, an achievement never recorded in Canadian football.)
- (2) There is no defense against a field goal once the ball gets into the air. (Rebuttal--there is no defense against a touchdown when the ball-carrier gets 15 yards in the clear behind his rivals.)
- (3) It will lead to field goal specialists coming in to disturb the scoring balance of the game. (Rebuttal--they've been bringing touchdown specialists for years. Maybe bringing in the field goal type will restore the scoring balance to sanity. Toronto Argonauts could have used one last year when they scored more than 40 touchdowns but couldn't score even one field goal.)

Coulter stepped to the rostrum for a second time to knock down a few of their arguments in favor of the six point touchdown. His arguments were again forceful and intelligent. When he was finished, there was still no other



delegate to support the six point TD. It went to a vote and the six pointer won out 7-3. Only the O.R.F.U. (two votes) and Intercollegiate voted for the five pointer. The Quebec Union joined the dominating professional circuits.<sup>83</sup>

The C.R.U. decided to allow twelve imports to play in the Grey Cup game, and for the 1956 season two backfielders would be allowed to block ten yards on running plays but "they must cross the scrimmage line at opposite sides and outside the end men."<sup>84</sup>

Many coaching changes took place in 1956. The last Canadian to coach in the professional leagues, Annis Stukus, was replaced by Clem Crowe at British Columbia. Calgary used three head coaches in 1956. Jack Hennemeir was fired midway through the season and Tommy Thompson reluctantly assumed the position for one game, in which Edmonton defeated Calgary by a score of 52-0. The third coach was Otis Douglas. Filchok was still at Regina, Ivy at Edmonton and Sherman at Winnipeg. Frank Clair was back in Canada. He replaced Chan Caldwell at Ottawa. Jim Trimble replaced Carl Voyles at Hamilton. Bill Swiacki was still at Toronto while at Montreal, "Peahead" Walker was still coaching the Alouettes.

Edmonton continued its domination of the West in 1956. After a 23-22 loss to Saskatchewan in the first game of the finals, Ivy, faced by a number of injuries, decided to make some changes in his lineup for the next game. He moved Jackie Parker to half-back and replaced him at quarterback with Don Getty, a second year

---

<sup>83</sup>Ibid.

<sup>84</sup>Ibid.





player from the University of Western Ontario. Edmonton won the second game by a score of 20-12 and with Getty still at quarterback defeated the Roughriders in the deciding game 51-7.

The Eastern finals were also exciting. Montreal defeated Hamilton in the first game by the score of 30-21. In the second game, Hamilton was losing by only two points on the round in the fourth quarter but Montreal finished strongly to eliminate Hamilton by a combined score of 78-62 on the round. The final erupted into a near riot. Montreal's Tom Hugo and Hamilton's Jim Norman were both ejected for fighting. After the game Hamilton coach Jim Trimble and Jake Gaudaur, the general manager of the Hamilton club, invaded the officials quarters and accused them of partisanship. Their excursion resulted in fines from the offices of the Big Four commissioner, \$500.00 against the Hamilton club and \$100.00 for the coach.

As the Grey Cup game approached, there was a tremendous amount of enthusiasm generated. The C.B.C. had completed its micro-wave network to Winnipeg resulting in that city being the western terminus of the "live" telecast. Winnipeg, as a result, suddenly found itself with an unexpected increase in tourists.

Hotels here today reported a rush for accommodation Saturday with only one question asked; "Have you got a TV set?" The people seeking rooms are football fans who want to watch Saturday's Grey Cup game in Toronto. Fans are coming here from Yorkton and Melville in Saskatchewan and Kenora, Fort Frances and Dryden in Ontario. In 1954 and 1955, dozens of Winnipeg fans travelled to Fargo, North Dakota, to watch the game on television there. One large hotel in Fort Garry is putting on a buffet luncheon with easy chairs and TV sets in its grand ballroom with enough room for 200





guests. Several other hotels report some forty to one hundred guests registered and more still coming.<sup>85</sup>

In the national final, Don Getty became the first Canadian quarterback to lead a Grey Cup team since 1947. He led the Eskimos to a 50-27 victory over the Alouettes. The game ended on a note which typified the situation in the East during the 1956 season. When Jackie Parker scored Edmonton's last touchdown, there were twelve seconds left to play. Some fans charged on the field and grabbed the ball from Parker. It was the eighteenth ball to be lost during the game. None was left. It was, therefore, impossible to attempt to convert or to kick off. This problem had been solved by the Big Four during the regular eastern season by having the converts kicked from the end zone toward the playing field. The Big Four also passed a regulation making a player liable to a fine of \$500.00 if he threw the ball into the stands. This method of conversion was not sanctioned for the Grey Cup game.

In a tragic end to the football season in Canada, five football players lost their lives when a Trans-Canada Airlines plane crashed in the Rocky Mountains. The five were Calvin Jones of Winnipeg and Mel Becket, Mario Demarco, Gordie Sturtridge and Ray Syrnyk, all of Saskatchewan. They were returning from the East-West Shrine game in Vancouver where the West defeated the East by a score of 35-0.

The Americanization of the names of the positions on a

---

<sup>85</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, November 21, 1956.



Canadian football team received the official approval of the Canadian Football Council in 1957. At that body's meeting in January, it was decided that snaps should be called centres; inside wings, guards; middle wings, tackles and outside wings, ends. "Even the flying wing was a casualty, its name being changed to wingback."<sup>86</sup> The Council also decided that the Ontario Union should not be allowed to compete for the Grey Cup. It was further decided that the twelve import limit would be retained, with the twelve having to be declared forty-eight hours after a team's third game. "Each team will then be allowed fourteen changes from then until midnight of October 18, at which time, each team must settle for twelve to finish the season".<sup>87</sup> The Council also sought to make illegal team incentive bonuses. Apparently, Hamilton offered its players a team bonus of "\$10,000.00 if they could beat Montreal in the Big Four final".<sup>88</sup> The resultant C.F.C. legislation banned team bonuses under penalty of a \$5,000.00 fine to the offending team. Chairman Ralph Cooper and Registrar Halter were "empowered to arrange a meeting with commissioner Bert Bell and the N.F.L. club owners to discuss relations between the two organizations".<sup>89</sup> Even though the C.F.C. had made these various changes, it was still necessary for them to work through the C.R.U. in order to be able to continue to challenge for the Grey Cup. The C.R.U. was still legally the Trustee of the Grey

---

<sup>86</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, January 21, 1957.

<sup>87</sup>Ibid.

<sup>88</sup>Ibid.

<sup>89</sup>Ibid.





Cup and had been since immediately after the first war.

The C.R.U. meeting was held in March and the two professional leagues, with the voting assistance of the Quebec Rugby Union, voted to amend the C.R.U. constitution so as not to allow the O.R.F.U. automatically to compete each year in the Grey Cup game. From that point on, it was up to a simple majority vote of the members of the C.R.U. as to whether the O.R.F.U. would challenge. Since the I.R.F.U. and the W.I.F.U. together controlled the majority of the votes, it was, in effect, up to these two bodies to decide when the Ontario Union could compete.

Among the rule changes made were the following: High tackles around the head or neck were legalized and "scragging" was redefined to mean "a high tackle that is unnecessarily rough".<sup>90</sup> The defending team was not allowed to interfere with the receiver on a screen pass once the ball was thrown. The effect of this rule was to make the screen pass a "running play except during the time the ball is in the air".<sup>91</sup> The tandem buck was declared legally dead. No longer was it legal for the ball carrier to receive any direct assistance from behind.

There was a certain amount of despair among the teams in the West. The Edmonton Eskimos seemed to be more powerful than ever. The monotonous regularity of their victories and their ball control style of play led to an air of indifference among their followers.

---

<sup>90</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, March 4, 1957.

<sup>91</sup>Ibid.





There were many surprised people, both in Edmonton and in the other cities of the West, when a determined band of Winnipeg Blue Bombers defeated the Eskimos in a series for the Western championship. Coached by Minnesota's athlete of the half-century, Bud Grant, the Blue Bombers included such an array of talent as Ken Ploen, Charlie Shepard, Jerry James and Herb Gray. After defeating Edmonton by a 19-7 score in the first game, Winnipeg lost the second by 5-4. In the final game of the bitterly fought series, Winnipeg, after two ten minutes over-time periods, defeated Edmonton 17-2. The Blue Bombers scored fifteen points in the two overtime periods, made necessary by the 2-2 tie at the end of regulation time.

The fourteen-game schedule started in the East in 1956. During the latter part of that season, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats indicated that they could be contenders for the Big Four championship in 1957. Led by the Hamilton twin fullbacks, Gerry McDougall and Chester "Cookie" Gilchrist, tackle John Barrow, quarterback Bernie Faloney and underrated players such as Pete Neumann, Ron Howell, Steve Oneschuck and Tommy Grant, the Tiger-Cats won ten games in the 1957 season, while losing four. One of the reasons for the Hamilton success was the American-born players who played as Canadians. One of these was Gerry McDougall. When he first tried out with the Hamilton team, McDougall, from U.C.L.A., seemed to do many things well but nothing in a specialized way. He was tried at many positions by Jim Trimble, but the Hamilton coach had decided that McDougall would be released. When it became known that his father had been born in Canada, McDougall was sworn in as a Canadian



citizen under the stands of Civic Stadium just prior to the first game of the 1957 season. McDougall, who was expendable as an American, suddenly became valuable as a Canadian. The Eastern series was also bitterly fought. The November 18 game threatened to erupt into a full-scale riot between the spectators and players. Early in the game, Cookie Gilchrist was thrown out for fighting. Later, Montreal captain Herb Trawick spun umpire John Munroe around and was immediately penalized. The game, won by Hamilton, infuriated the Montreal crowd and the near-riot evoked the following criticism:

Neither official nor player should be expected to risk injury from wild fans. There might have been serious injury suffered by one or more game officials Saturday had not the Hamilton players come to their rescue . . . Several players escaped only by using their helmets as quarter-staffs and any headaches thus incurred were quite deserved.<sup>92</sup>

The 1957 Grey Cup game was the first to be telecast from coast to coast. The C.B.C. arranged for the American Broadcasting Company to carry the game by micro-wave over its channels to the Maritimes. To bring the game to the Vancouver and Victoria areas, arrangements were made with the Atlantic Cable and Telegraph Company to relay the game through the western United States to British Columbia. A total of thirty-one television stations carried the game from Halifax to Vancouver.

The Grey Cup game was won by the Tiger-Cats by a 32-7 score. One of the more unusual incidents occurred when Ray "Bibbles" Bawel was racing towards the Winnipeg goal line with only a clear field in front of him. A spectator, standing among the photographers along

---

<sup>92</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, November 18, 1957.





the sidelines, tripped Bawel and prevented him from scoring. Winnipeg was penalized half the distance to the goal line and Hamilton went on to score its thirty-second point of the game. It was some time later that the guilty party sent Bawel a gold watch and an apology for the incident.

The game grossed \$371,284.00, including \$195,734.00 from ticket sales and \$175,550.00 from other revenues including television. After expenditures of \$75,483.77, the W.I.F.U. received \$147,900.47 and the I.R.F.U. received \$147,900.46.<sup>93</sup>

In 1958, the Canadian Football League was formed. It was no different in principle from the then-existing Canadian Football Council but

. . . it was felt it would be better to change the name "Canadian Football Council" and it was therefore, moved by Mr. McMahon, seconded by Mr. Duggan that the name Canadian Football Council be now changed to Canadian Football League.<sup>94</sup>

At the same meeting, it was decided that G. Sydney Halter be made commissioner of the C.F.L. and a system of "waivers" was put into effect. From this point on, when a club in the Canadian Football League wished to release a player from its roster it had to make this known to all nine clubs. Each of the clubs, according to a pre-determined system, could claim the player within a period of forty-eight hours. The waiving club could withdraw a player from waivers once. This might be done with the intention of attempting to

---

<sup>93</sup> Minutes of the Canadian Football Council, January 17, 1958.

<sup>94</sup> Ibid.





determine how many clubs were interested in the player. Once this was determined, a trade could be arranged. If the player were not recalled or if he were put on waivers a second time after being recalled, the claiming club would have to pay the waiving club \$500.00 in the case of a Canadian and \$750.00 for an American. If no team claimed the player, he was declared a free agent, unless a team, for some reason, placed his name on its negotiation list.

The player's contracts replaced the C.R.U. cards in 1958. It was no longer necessary for players to sign a C.R.U. card in addition to their contract. The C.R.U. card was, however, still a requirement for non-C.F.L. teams. The only requirement for C.F.L. teams was that each player's contract be filed in the commissioner's office. It was decided to allow each team in the C.F.L. twelve imports, with seven changes allowed before October 15. The fifteenth of October was chosen because it was the final date for teams in the N.F.L. to declare their final roster. Some of the C.F.L. teams felt that there would be a sudden availability of players as a result of the N.F.L. action and, moreover, a player was likely to sign for less once he had been released by a team. The league also approved the dressing of twenty-eight players for each game and a negotiation list of twelve players per team.

Most of the delegates to the 1958 meeting were of the opinion that, while they wanted to control their own professional game, they did not want to destroy the C.R.U. in the process. Later, in March, at the C.R.U. meeting, the C.F.L. assumed control of the older football governing body. The votes of the Interprovincial Rugby Football Union, Western Interprovincial Football Union, Quebec Rugby Union



and the Maritimes Football Union gave the C.F.L. the necessary power to amend the constitution of the C.R.U. As a result of the vote, the two professional bodies had ten of the fifteen votes in the C.R.U., the necessary two-thirds majority. There were strong objections to the move from the O.R.F.U. and the Intercollegiate Union, but Commissioner Halter defended the move, stating:

I am definitely satisfied that the best interests of junior and intermediate football in Canada have been served. We certainly have no intention of harming the C.R.U. We are still prepared to subsidize the C.R.U. for development of junior and intermediate football. If we withdrew from the C.R.U. there was the danger that men interested in junior and intermediate football might lose interest and the C.R.U. might then fall apart. We now have full power to amend the C.R.U. constitution so that we can take out of it anything required to operate the Canadian Football League without having to go to minor unions for voting support.<sup>95</sup>

The C.F.L. was in effect the C.R.U. and it announced its rule changes through the C.R.U. The major rule change of 1958 was that interference by eligible blockers would be legal up to the third "yard stripe". In some cases, therefore, it could be for eleven yards or for fifteen.

There were some changes at the coaching level in 1958. "Pop" Ivy left Edmonton to take a coaching position with the Chicago Cardinals of the National Football League. His successor was Sam Lyle. Filchok was replaced by George Terlep at Saskatchewan and Clem Crowe, after six games, was replaced by Dan Edwards. With all the coaching changes, however, Jim Trimble's Tiger-Cats and Bud Grant's Blue Bombers met again in the 1958 Grey Cup game in Vancouver. It was anticipated that

---

<sup>95</sup> Edmonton Journal, March 17, 1958.





the game would be worth \$1.1 million to the city of Vancouver.

Fifty-one special TCA flights carrying 6,000 extra passengers, more than a dozen special trains plus extra coaches on regular runs helped bring the balance of 13,000 visitors here. They overflowed the city's 4,000 hotel rooms and 1,000 auto court units, sleeping in pullman cars spotted on sidings near downtown areas. Accommodation cost the visitors some \$300,000.00, meals took roughly a similar amount, entertainment bill probably reached \$200,000.00 with incidentals like taxis, tips, gifts, sightseeing, taking care of the remainder.<sup>96</sup>

The Grey Cup game of 1958 was one of the most exciting ever played. One of the highest scoring games to be played to that time, it appeared that whichever team possessed the ball at the end of the game would be the winner. The Tiger-Cats started quickly, scoring fourteen points. One of their touchdowns was by Ralph Goldston who was later to be "thrown out" of the game for "roughing" Leo Lewis. The Winnipeg team, led by a brilliant performance by Jim Van Pelt, who scored twenty-two points, defeated the Tiger-Cats in the game by a score of 35-28. The attendance of 36,567 assured that the game would be a financial success. The gross revenue from the game was a record \$427,264.04. With expenses of \$64,751.87 and \$54,805.03 for the C.R.U., the I.R.F.U. and the W.I.F.U. were each awarded \$153,953.57.<sup>97</sup> The victorious Winnipeg team was awarded 40 per cent of the West's figure with the remaining 60 per cent to be divided among the remaining four teams in the W.I.F.U.

The official constitution of the C.F.L. was approved in January of 1959, and club rosters were set at thirty-eight. Although Toronto,

---

<sup>96</sup> Financial Post, December 6, 1958.

<sup>97</sup> Minutes of the C.F.L. Meeting, January 15, 1959.





Calgary, and Vancouver supported unlimited importation, it was decided to keep the import rule the same as in 1958. The college draft was re-organized. The four Eastern teams and Calgary participated. The other Western clubs were to be given the exclusive rights to University team players in their city. Winnipeg was awarded players from the University of Manitoba, Saskatchewan from the University of Saskatchewan, British Columbia from the University of British Columbia. Edmonton and Calgary shared the players from the University of Alberta, but it was felt that since the University was in Edmonton, the Eskimos would have better access to signing the graduates of that University. For this reason, Calgary was allowed to participate in the draft of Eastern college players.

A proposal, made by the Football Reporters of Canada, to change the numbering system of players in the C.F.L., was turned down for the 1959 season because it was felt that the teams had already purchased their sweaters. The proposal which suggested that all backfielders be numbered in the one to twenty range was thought to have sufficient merit to be implemented, in part, for the 1960 season. It was also decided at the C.F.L. meeting that clubs would be allowed to keep fifteen names on their negotiation lists. During the 1959 season, this was increased to twenty names.

Since the C.R.U. card was no longer valid for C.F.L. purposes, the matter of the player contract was becoming increasingly important. There was continual investigation into ways in which the contract would be made more binding in a legal way. The 1959 contracts had an option clause, but nowhere in the clause did it state that a player, when playing out his option, would do so at a rate of payment



less than what his contract called for. It was decided that, starting in 1960, contracts should state that the option figure would be 90 per cent of the player's contract figure. The original reasons for not having a special sum for the option were two-fold: . . . firstly with the N.F.L. having a 90% Option Clause, there was an inducement for players to come to Canada, and secondly, if a club desired to reduce a player's contract it would be quite evident that the player would be of little value to them.<sup>98</sup> Even with the decision to include the 90 per cent figure in the contracts it still became necessary to word the option clause in such a way as to make it binding as well as legal. At a later meeting, Commissioner Halter pointed out that while he was of the opinion that the clause was legal, care should be taken when exercising an option that the club state a figure. "This should not be less than 90%. He added that clubs would have to be extremely careful in the wording when exercising the option."<sup>99</sup>

It was at the meetings during Grey Cup week of 1959 that the Interprovincial Rugby Football Union decided to change its name. During the 1960 season, the Big Four was to be known as the Eastern Football Conference. One of the reasons for the change in name was that the use of the term "Rugby" was confusing to the Americans who were being recruited.

For the third consecutive time, the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and the Hamilton Tiger-Cats met in the Grey Cup game. Played at Toronto's

---

<sup>98</sup>Ibid.

<sup>99</sup>Minutes of C.F.L. Meeting, November 27, 1959.





Canadian National Exhibition grounds, the Winnipeg Blue Bombers defeated the Tiger-Cats by the score of 21-7.

In the early weeks of 1960, football was very much in the news. The Hamilton Tiger Cats became the last of the Eastern Football Conference Clubs to become privately owned. The Eastern clubs had originally started off as private organizations, and when football had become a more expensive proposition, the clubs were community-owned affairs, being operated by civic-minded business and sportsmen. With the growth of professional football, it became necessary to have effective full-time personnel in charge of the club's operations. Montreal was the first of the Eastern clubs to become a privately owned company followed by Toronto, Ottawa and Hamilton. In Hamilton, an independent accounting firm valued the worth of the club, without its financial surplus, at \$170,000.00.

The accountants were called in to establish a price after a fifteen man group, including some of the present Ti-Cat executives, offered to buy the club from the city. The proceeds from the sale, including the team's profit since 1950, which reports said, could reach more than \$400,000.00 will go to a trust fund to aid amateur sports in the city.<sup>100</sup>

The Toronto Argonauts announced shortly afterwards that they had signed quarterback Tobin Rote, a ten-year veteran of the National Football League. Rote, who had played with Green Bay and Detroit, "signed for a reported \$23,000.00 no-trade contract".<sup>101</sup> One week later, Russ Jackson, who had been named Canada's outstanding

---

<sup>100</sup> Edmonton Journal, January 6, 1960.

<sup>101</sup> Edmonton Journal, January 7, 1960.





athlete of 1959 by the year-end Canadian Press poll, was named Ontario's outstanding male athlete of 1959 by the Ontario Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association. It climaxed a wonderful year for the McMaster University graduate. He had also been named the outstanding native Canadian in the C.F.L. in 1959.

One of the reasons for the amount of football news in the middle of the hockey season was the formation of the American Football League in the United States. Because of the signed agreements between the N.F.L. and C.F.L., there had been relatively little discord in the relations between those two leagues in recent years. There was some concern, however, whether the new American League would honor Canadian contracts in their effort to field strong, experienced teams. On February 1, of 1960, Sydney Halter and the commissioner of the American league, Joe Foss met in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and agreed that each league would honor the other's contracts. There was also some cause for concern regarding the N.F.L. among the Canadian teams. Bert Hall died in 1959 and while that league was in the process of appointing a commissioner, there was some fear that the agreements arrived at with Bell might not be adhered to by the new commissioner.

The rules committee of the C.F.L. met in Toronto on February 6 and 7 and made a number of changes in the regulations. Unlimited blocking was allowed on a pass interception and a rule prohibiting contacting the kicker was also passed. This latter rule was to become the source of much displeasure in the seasons to come. The rule stated that it was illegal to come in contact with the kicker while he was in the act of kicking from a regular formation. It was really an



effort to stop the "acting" that was being done by various kickers in the C.F.L. Many of them had been instructed by their coaches to fall to the ground whenever the opposition came into contact with them. The result was that many kickers fell "agonizingly" to the ground, for little apparent reason, after having kicked the ball. The kickers always showed remarkable recuperative powers after a "rough play" penalty had been marched off by the official. As a result of this rule, kickers were coached to leave their kicking leg extended for as long as possible after the kick in an attempt to incur a penalty. Players, in attempting to block a kick, were coached to direct their efforts to the point at which the ball would leave the kicker's foot. Normally, a kicker would bring his kicking leg back down as quickly as possible in order to race downfield to attempt to recover his own kick. The new rule, as a result of the various coaching stratagems, caused a decline in the traditional Canadian practice of the punter following his own kick in an attempt to recover it and a decline in the number of blocked punts. Players could no longer rush the kicker "with reckless abandon and utter disregard for personal safety" as many coaches wished. Another rule for the 1960 season reflected the equipment that was being used. It was made illegal, in 1960, for a player to grab an opponent's facemask. The rule was instituted primarily because of the danger to a player's neck if the facemask were used as a lever by which to throw the opponent to the ground.

The great issue of the 1960 C.F.L. meeting was the matter of the interlocking schedule between the two divisions of the C.F.L. In 1959, Frank Gibson and Ralph Parliament, of Hamilton and Winnipeg





respectively, were commissioned to investigate the feasibility of an interlocking schedule, something which had been talked about since the formation of the C.F.C. but never carried through. There were two factors which had to be solved before the interlocking schedule could be implemented. One concerned television revenue and the other had to do with gate equalization. The Eastern Conference had received \$300,000.00 and the Western Interprovincial Union, \$117,000.00 in 1959, from televising games. The West proposed that all television revenues be pooled and split with sixty per cent to the East and forty per cent to the West. The East proposed that each conference retain its television revenue. It suggested that when a Western team visited the East to play in a televised game, \$5,000.00 would be given to the Western team. When a team from the East visited the West, it would receive \$2,500.00 from the Western team if the game were televised. The West proposed that a gate equalization formula of 75 per cent to the home team and 25 per cent to the visiting team should be instituted to help defray the extra travelling costs. After a long discussion regarding all these proposals, the interlocking schedule was shelved for 1960 and sent back to the committees of the two leagues.

The C.F.L. proposed that the suggestion of the Football Reporters of Canada regarding the numbering of players would be instituted for 1960, with a few additions. Backfielders were to be numbered from one to thirty-nine, centres in the forties, guards in the fifties, tackles in the sixties and ends in the seventies. The waiver price was also adjusted. The one price of \$350.00 applied to all players, American or Canadian. The effort to





redefine the status of a Canadian-American continued at the C.F.L. meeting. The original idea was, of course, to encourage Americans to become Canadian citizens in order to strengthen a team's Canadian citizens in order to strengthen a team's Canadian content. It became evident, however, that the new Canadians would not play for the normal Canadian's salary, and, as a result, costs were increasing. Teams were having second thoughts about the arrangement and at the meeting it was ". . . pointed out that after playing with a club for five years, the value of the American player is not so great, to which Mr. Workman replied: "But the price is', as usually a club bonuses a player on becoming a Canadian."<sup>102</sup>

The C.F.L. was also concerned about the size of rosters and declared that they had to be pared to fifty players by August 15, forty by August 22 and thirty-four by September 15. Changes could be unlimited up to midnight, forty-eight hours after a team's last league game. The roster was then "frozen" except for those who were put on the new injury reserve list. Players could be put on this injury reserve list for thirty days and as such they would not count as part of the team's thirty-four players on the roster.

At the C.F.L. meetings, the question of the C.R.U. was always brought up. This was due to the fact that the C.R.U. was being subsidized by the C.F.L. In 1960, the C.F.L. granted the sum of \$52,814.00 to the C.R.U. with virtually no argument about the figure.<sup>103</sup>

---

<sup>102</sup>Minutes of the C.F.L. Meeting, February 11, 12, 13, 1960.

<sup>103</sup>Ibid.



In the midst of all the serious business, there was some time for humor, provided mostly by the General Manager of the British Columbia Lions, Herb Capozzi. According to the Edmonton Journal:

At the dullest part of the day, a bell-boy entered the meeting paging Mr. Finks and handed the Calgary General Manager a telegram. He tore it open casually, scanned it and then jumped up, read it again and tore over to commissioner Halter. The telegram read: "Have received fabulous offer from Oakland of A.F.L. Request my release. Regards, Joe Kapp". In high excitement, Jimmie demanded from Halter American Football League commissioner Joe Foss' telephone number. Halter and Foss were just supposed to have completed a no raiding agreement. Finks stormed out of the room for the telephone in the hall and had the long distance call in when Capozzi let him know it was a gag.<sup>104</sup>

Canadian salaries were increasing but they were still, in the majority of cases, far behind the American salaries. In 1960, the first draft choice of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats signed for a bonus of \$1,000.00 and a contract for \$3,500.00; Toronto signed Bill Mitchell, its first draft choice, for a bonus of \$500.00 and a \$5,800.00 contract; Montreal signed its first draft choice, Lionel Conacher Jr., for a \$2,000.00 bonus and a two year "no cut" contract for \$7,500.00 per season. The Alouettes received Calgary's first draft choice, Meco Poliziani, through a prior agreement and signed him for a \$500.00 bonus and a \$4,000.00 contract. In Hamilton's case, the player was to receive his full contract figure only if he participated in every game of the season. If the player did not "dress" for a game, he would be paid a sum not less than fifty per cent of his contract on a per game basis.

As the season progressed, Eastern followers were witnessing

---

<sup>104</sup>Edmonton Journal, February 12, 1960.





a surprising reversal of form. The Hamilton Tiger-Cats, who, since they were formed in 1950, had never finished out of the play-offs, won only four of their fourteen games. While Hamilton was settling into last place, the Toronto Argonauts, paced by Tobin Rote, Cookie Gilchrist, Dave Mann, Dick Shatto and Bobby Kuntz, finished in first place. The Toronto team won ten games and lost four under first year coach Lou Agase. Twice during the season, Rote threw seven touchdown passes in one game.

In the Eastern Conference semi-final game, Ottawa defeated the Alouettes and prepared to meet the Toronto Argonauts in the Eastern Final. The Rough Riders, aided by the old "sleeper" play and paced by quarterbacks Russ Jackson and Ron Lancaster, defeated the Argonauts by 54-41 on the round. In the West, Edmonton Eskimos dethroned the Blue Bombers as Western champions and, for the first time, the Western team was made betting favorite in a Grey Cup game. Ottawa, however, defeated the Eskimos by a 16-6 score. It was only the second time since 1953, that an Eastern team had defeated the West in a Grey Cup game.

The major news of 1960 was provided before the Grey Cup game. On November 9, it was announced that the Montreal Alouettes and the Hamilton Tiger-Cats had completed a player trade. Montreal was sending Hal Patterson and Sam Etcheverry to Hamilton in return for Don Paquette and Bernie Faloney. The trade set off a storm of protests in Montreal where both Etcheverry and Patterson were looked upon as "idols" by the Montreal supporters. A complication arose when Sam Etcheverry announced that the trade was a violation of his contract with the Alouettes. He declared that the Alouettes did





not receive his consent to the trade as was specified in his contract and therefore, he said, he was a free agent.

Ted Workman stated:

There was no question there was an agreement between Sam and the club that he should not be traded without being consulted. That was not in the actual contract as furnished by the Canadian Football League. It was a privately signed agreement between Sam and the Club not incorporated into the actual contract but it is, I feel, quite legal, nevertheless.<sup>105</sup>

Etcheverry signed with the St. Louis Cardinals, coached by "Pop" Ivy. The critics of the trade complained that not only had the Alouettes lost an outstanding player, Canadian football had lost an outstanding drawing attraction. When Etcheverry did not report to Hamilton, the trade, which was first announced as "unconditional", was disrupted. Patterson reported to Hamilton and Paquette to Montreal. Faloney, however, decided to take the case to court. He asked the Supreme Court of Ontario to decide whether he was the property of Hamilton, Montreal or a free agent. Faloney eventually dropped the court proceedings and returned to the Tiger-Cats.

---

<sup>105</sup> Edmonton Journal, February 2, 1961.



1961 - 1968

Canadian football, in 1961, was a full-time business necessitating attention to the smallest of details. The W.I.F.U. changed its name to the Western Football Conference. The Winnipeg Rugby Club became known officially as the Winnipeg Football Club and Hamilton was registered as the Hamilton Tiger-Cat Football Club Ltd., rather than the Hamilton Tiger-Cat Football Club Inc. The Western Football Conference considered many items at its meeting of February 8, 9, and 10. The increasing number of items serves to indicate the many factors that had to be considered by the professional organization. It considered whether to hire a statistician to prepare a weekly summary of the Conference's statistics; how best to develop competent officials; whether tenders should be required from companies wanting to film games; whether air rates could be reduced; the possibility of increased baggage allowances on Trans-Canada Airlines' flights; how best to maintain a competitive balance between the various Conference teams; how to make the players aware of the fact that they were professionals and, as such, they should be prepared to report to whichever team they were traded.

Many of these problems were also shared by the Eastern Football Conference. The two leagues, after five years of discussion, approved an interlocking schedule in 1961. At the C.F.L. meeting, it was decided that Hamilton and Ottawa would play three league games in the West and two against western opposition at home. Montreal and Toronto were to play three home games against western teams and two each in the parks of the westerners. The new schedule





arrangement was eagerly anticipated throughout the country. In the East, in previous years, it had been common for teams to play against each other from four to six times during the season and play-offs. With an interlocking schedule, supporters in some years would be able to see a different opponent at each home game. The scheduling of the games was not arranged to every team's satisfaction. Perhaps because of the uncertainty of western weather and the East not wanting to play its games in the West late in the season, some clubs were put into the position whereby they played five games in twenty days. On the whole, however, the schedule was a credit to the hard work and preparation by Frank Gibson of Hamilton and Ralph Parliament of Winnipeg. In order to allow for the interlocking schedule to take place, ticket prices were increased for all interlocking games. No television revenues were to be included in the financial "pool" arranged to cover the increased travelling costs. The "pool" consisted of seventy-five cents per ticket sold between the goal lines being pooled and divided among the nine teams according to a pre-determined rate.

The C.F.L. continued to attempt to arrive at a suitable definition of a "Canadian" in order to control the rising costs of having so many Canadianized Americans. The 1961 meeting defined "non-imports as those who have acquired Canadian citizenship through residence of at least five years".<sup>106</sup>

At the same meeting, Halter asked for and received, from the Canadian Football League, the power "to refuse to register any

---

<sup>106</sup> Minutes of the C.F.L. Annual Meeting, February 9, 1961.





contract submitted to him for any valid reason, subject to the right of appeal".<sup>107</sup>

Various clubs in the C.F.L. were chastised for violating procedures regarding contracts. Larry Hayes of Ottawa, Bill Hudson of Montreal and Randy Duncan of British Columbia had signed contracts with American teams without being "waived" through the C.F.L. Upon investigation by Commissioner Halter, it was discovered that the contracts of six players, including the above mentioned three, were without the required option clause. On further investigation it was found that seven additional contracts were registered in such a way as to make the option clause not binding. Halter stated that:

Any voluntary act taken by a Club which makes a player a free agent at law without having been waived out of the League is a contradiction of the rules of the C.F.L. and such a voluntary act would render the Club liable to the fine . . . he would have no hesitation in recommending to the executive that it fine (the Club) the sum of \$10,000.00 for a deliberate breach of the waiver rule.<sup>108</sup>

In recognition of the satisfactory function that Halter was performing, the C.F.L. approved an additional two year contract for the Commissioner. His remuneration was to be \$18,500.00 for each of the two years of the new contract with an additional \$3,500.00 per year to cover expenses.<sup>109</sup> The meeting also approved a grant to the C.R.U. of \$50,184.00 and the principle of a C.F.L. crest to

---

<sup>107</sup> Ibid.

<sup>108</sup> Ibid.

<sup>109</sup> Ibid.



be used on television as well as on the league's stationary.

There were a number of rule changes. The League decided that the team upon whom a safety touch had been scored in the last five minutes of an overtime period, had to kick-off the ball. This resulted from the practice prior to 1957 whereby a team which had a lead of more than two points, might in a close game with little time remaining to be played, concede two points and retain possession of the ball until the end of the game. The rule calling for a kick-off was passed in 1957. The 1961 rule simply extended the 1957 rule to include overtime periods. In another rule change, four backfielders were allowed to block the length of the field. The backfielders had to be lined up outside the ends before the ball was snapped, with no more than two backs on the same side. Unlimited blocking was also allowed on a fumble recovery.

Two plays were made illegal. The sleeper play was not allowed on any play immediately following the entrance or exit of one or more players to or from the field of play. This was put into effect because of the practice prevalent among some teams of having one of their players pretend that he was leaving the field of play. As an example, five players for Toronto might enter the game as substitutes. Six players would walk off the field towards the sideline. Once the six reached the sideline, they would linger in a group. One of the six would be on the field of play but, because of the many players grouped at the sideline, the defensive team could not know whether the player was in or out of bounds. At the "break" of the huddle and the snap of the ball the result was, more often than not, a touchdown.





The second play to be made illegal was the "tackle eligible". This was a play whereby the end on one side of the line would align himself approximately fifteen yards from the tackle and one yard behind the line of scrimmage. The effect was to make the tackle the end man on the line of scrimmage and therefore an eligible pass receiver. A wingback on the other side of the centre would be required to align himself on the line of scrimmage. He would, therefore, spread himself such a distance from the end on his side so as not to make it apparent to the defensive team that he was on the line of scrimmage. As a result, the defense would be duped and they would be aligned in such a way as to leave one eligible receiver without a defender. The result was that the unguarded eligible receiver, the tackle, would be in a position to catch a forward pass and achieve the dream of many linemen--to score a touchdown. As of 1961, however, the end man on the line of scrimmage was required to wear the number of an eligible receiver.

As the season progressed, it was very evident that the interlocking schedule was a resounding success. Attendance increased in almost every park, particularly in Calgary where the Stampeders were playing in their new McMahon Stadium. Hamilton, aided by its five victories over Western Conference teams, finished in first place in the East. The Tiger-Cats, led by a determined Bernie Faloney, were successful to a great extent because their line-up contained six Canadianized Americans. They were: Vince Scott, Tom Dublinski, Hardiman Cureton, Ron Ray, Gerry McDougall, and Bronko Nagurski Jr. Toronto, after finishing in third place, defeated the Grey Cup champion Rough Riders by a 43-19 score in





the Eastern Conference semi-final game. The Argonauts continued to display their new-found power in defeating the Tiger-Cats 25-7 in the first game of the two game total point series for the Eastern Championship. The people of Hamilton held one of that city's most exuberant gatherings the night prior to the playing of the second game in an effort to encourage the Tiger-Cat team. Hamilton rallies were always held in front of the Royal Connaught Hotel, usually where the visiting team was staying. These rallies were so exuberant that, whenever an important game was to be played, with the possibility of a rally to be held by the Hamilton people, the visiting team would make arrangements to stay in another hotel, away from the demonstration. At half-time of the second game, Hamilton enjoyed a lead of 3-0 but the Tiger-Cats were still losing on the round by 18-3. With less than a minute to the end of the game, Hamilton was ahead by a score of 20-2. The series had been tied. With Toronto in possession on the Hamilton forty yard line and third down, Dave Mann kicked the ball into the Hamilton end-zone in an attempt to score a rouge. Don Sutherin returned the kick. Mann recovered Sutherin's kick, evaded the Hamilton tacklers and kicked the ball again into the Hamilton end-zone. Faloney retrieved the ball, saw that he had an opportunity to run the ball out of the end-zone and in one of the most exciting plays in Canadian football, ran 110 yards for the touchdown. In all the confusion, however, illegal blocks were thrown by the Tiger-Cats and the touchdown was not allowed. In the two ten minute overtime periods played, the Tiger-Cats so thoroughly dominated the Argonauts that they scored four touchdowns, while giving up none to the Toronto team. Hamilton



won the game by a 48-2 score and the round by 55-27.

In the West, Winnipeg regained first place. Its opponent in the final series was Calgary. Calgary, aided by Harvey Wylie's run from an interception resulting in a touchdown, defeated Edmonton by the score of 10-8. The Stampeders, coached by Bobby Dobbs and quarterbacked by Eagle Day, were defeated by Winnipeg 14-1 and 43-14.

The Grey Cup game between Winnipeg and Hamilton was the fourth time in five years that those teams had met in the national championship game. The Tiger-Cats scored early as a result of Paul Dekker's touchdown, a 78 yard pass and run play. Winnipeg scored a point early in the second quarter and a field goal in the third. Hamilton took a 14-4 lead when Ralph Goldston scored on a pass and run play. Winnipeg scored ten points in the fourth quarter to tie the game at 14-14. The 1961 Grey Cup game was the first to require overtime. Two ten minute halves were played. In the first half, there was no score. In the second half, Kenny Ploen, seeing that his receivers were covered, ran around the right end and scored the deciding touchdown. Winnipeg won 21-14. Fourteen of the Winnipeg points were scored by Jerry James.

The game attracted 32,651 spectators and resulted in gate receipts of \$302,189.00. As result of selling rights by tender, the C.F.L. received the following additional revenue: Molson's Brewery (Ontario) paid \$22,500.00 for the film rights; the C.B.C. paid \$16,000.00 for the radio rights and the B.C. Lions paid \$6,051.00 for the program rights. Television revenue was \$150,000.00.<sup>110</sup>

---

<sup>110</sup>Minutes of the C.F.L. Annual Meeting (Commissioner's Report), February 16, 1962.





Revenues continued to increase in 1962. The privately owned CTV network was awarded the rights to the televising of the Eastern Football Conference games for the sum of \$375,000.00. The Western Conference announced in February that a new contract had also been signed with the CTV firm. The two year agreement called for \$200,000.00 for each season. In addition, each of the five Western teams was allowed \$10,000.00 in services over the two year period.<sup>111</sup>

At the C.F.L. meeting in February of 1962, it was decided that, whereas a team could still have fifteen imports on its roster, thirteen could participate in a game. The roster was reduced from thirty-five to thirty-three in an effort to trim expenses. The contracts also underwent a change. Previous to 1962, the contractual option clause was worded in such a way as to allow a player to become a "free agent" by not playing in his option year. As of 1962, the option clause was amended so as not to allow a player to "sit out" his option year; it was necessary for him to play during that period in order for him to be "free" from that team.

A Disaster Plan, first approved in 1961, was revised during the meeting. A "disaster" existed whenever a team lost the services of four or more of its players through accidental death or incapacitation. Its aim was:

. . . to enable the victim Club, on a pre-arranged basis, to draft players from the non-victim clubs, provide a basis of payment for said players and to provide an emergency fund in the league to provide

---

<sup>111</sup>Ibid.





for unforeseen requirements.

The following is the distribution of funds for the plan.

Non Victim Club	30%	\$15,000.00
Victim Club	20%	\$10,000.00
C.F.L.	50%	\$25,000.00 <sup>112</sup>

In an effort to make the players more distinguishable, especially on television, the C.F.L. adhered to a "Football Reporters of Canada" recommendation that numbers of the players be painted on the helmets. The Reporters' association also was granted permission to choose an approved all-star team for the C.F.L. and both member conferences. The C.F.L. also approved the Spalding J5V as the official C.F.L. ball. The cost to the C.F.L. for each ball was \$12.00 and Spalding's also agreed to continue printing the rule books free of charge.<sup>113</sup>

There was very little change in the rules. A player, when he intercepted a pass in the end zone, could run with the ball in an attempt to gain as many yards as possible. If the interceptor were tackled behind the goal line, the ball would be scrimmaged by his team on the ten yard line. No point was to be awarded. If the interceptor were tackled between the goal line and his nine yard line, the ball would be scrimmaged by his team at the point where he was tackled. It was decided, also, that once an interior line-man had assumed his stance, he could not legally assume a new stance. This was done in order to prevent the drawing off-side of opponents. A rule was put into effect that a pass would be ruled complete if it touched two or more eligible receivers on the same side and was

---

<sup>112</sup> Ibid.

<sup>113</sup> Ibid.



caught by the receiver farthest in advance of the other. The ball was to be ruled complete at the point where it was first touched by an eligible receiver.

As the 1962 season started, football was again much in the news. Hamilton had traded Gerry McDougall to Toronto for Bobby Kuntz. In Montreal, Perry Moss signed Sandy Stephens, a much publicized quarterback from Minnesota. Stevens' contract reportedly called for the payment of \$115,000.00 over the three year term of the non-release pact. Montreal had other exciting performers such as Don Clark, George Dixon and Marv Luster. In Toronto, the reunion of Cookie Gilchrist and Gerry McDougall did not last long. Gilchrist was suspended by the Argonaut coach Lou Agase after a breach of the club's curfew regulations following a July exhibition game in Edmonton. Although teams were interested in Gilchrist, to the point where emissaries were sent to talk to him, he and his \$19,000.00 contract were waived through the C.F.L. Gilchrist went to the Buffalo Bills of the American Football League where he led that league in rushing. Agase was later fired in the middle of the 1962 season and replaced by Nobby Wirkowski. Ottawa still had some of the best native-born Canadian players in the C.F.L. in Russ Jackson, Ron Stewart, Joe Poirier, Moe Racine and Gilles Archambault. They also had some promising first year men such as Gene Gaines and Billy Joe Booth.

In Calgary, Bobby Dobbs, was lamenting the loss of Gene Filipski but was happy with the acquisition of Jim Dillard, a hard-running halfback from Oklahoma. Calgary was expecting Dillard to team with their fine fullback Earl Lunsford and be as potent an





offensive threat as Kwong and Bright had been for Edmonton. Winnipeg lost the services of Ed Kotowich through retirement. Kotowich and Cornell Piper of Winnipeg were thought, by many observers, to be the best pair of guards in Canadian football. Edmonton was happy because Tommy Joe Coffey was returning after a one-year absence. The Eskimos were still searching for another strong half-back to share the offensive plunging with Johnny Bright. In British Columbia, the Lions, under coach Dave Skrein, were continually improving. One of the biggest teams in C.F.L. history, the Lions included Joe Kapp, Willie Fleming, Tom Brown and Mike Cacic. Regina, under Steve Owens, seemed to be in a period of revival because of the play of Bill Gray, Ray Purdin, Ray Smith, Bill Burrell, and Ron Atchison.

Football was certainly becoming more specialized during this period. The increase in specialization was evident in the growth of football terminology. Just as the offense had developed a system in reference to the calling of a play, the defense was developing its system, geared to saying as much as possible in a few words. The normal terminology was never used when members of the defensive team were discussing strategy. The offensive team also had to know the new terminology in order to save precious time during the game. In a defensive alignment having a five man line, a four man secondary and a three man tertiary, the following is an example of one system used:





<u>Normal Name of Position</u>	<u>System Name</u>
Tackle	Tom
End	Ed
Middle Guard	Mike
Right Interior Linebacker	Gee
Left Interior Linebacker	Haw
Right Outside Linebacker	Russ
Left Outside Linebacker	Lou
Right Defensive Halfback	Rose
Safety	Boss
Left Defensive Halfback	Liz

The system names had a meaning to them. Many of them started with the first letter of the name they were describing, for example, Tom and Tackle. Trimble, of Hamilton, felt that the most difficult positions to play were middle guard and line backer. These positions were, therefore, designated with the names of Russ, Lou and Mike, boys' names which represented toughness to Trimble. The terms Gee and Haw are derived from the days when the driver of a two horse team shouted "Gee" or "Haw" when he wanted the horses to turn either right or left. In Hamilton's system, the defensive halfbacks were designated by female names because, relatively speaking, one didn't have to be as physically strong to play those positions.

The year 1962, was, in many respects, a transition year for defensive football. The five man defensive line was almost universally used with teams either using three line backers or, as in Calgary's case, four. Calgary, with Ernie Danjean and Wayne Harris,



was one team which led the way in the trend towards defense. Terms such as "Eagle Defense" (two interior linebackers positioned over the offensive tackles), "Oklahoma Defense" (two interior linebackers positioned over guards) and "Red Dog" (the sending of a linebacker into an area of the offensive team protected by an insufficient number of offensive players), along with an abundance of other American-oriented terminology, were being used authoritatively and continuously by coaches in their appearances before the public. Each of the nine teams might have a different system name, depending on its coach's background. The effect was that football seemed to be developing into a highly specialized and confusing game.

Television was having an impact on the structure of a football game. Since television sponsors were paying great sums of money, it was necessary to assure them that their advertisements would be sufficiently displayed. For the 1962 season, the following delays were to be provided:

- (a) For all televised games in the Eastern Conference--  
90 seconds between the 1st and the 2nd quarters  
and between the 3rd and 4th quarters, with the following exceptions being games that will be televised from the East to the West:  
  - September 6th--Vancouver at Montreal
  - September 10th--Winnipeg at Hamilton
  - September 22nd--Edmonton at Montreal
  - October 15--Saskatchewan at Hamilton
For the above games, officials will be instructed to provide a delay between the 1st and 2nd quarters of 90 seconds, and between the 3rd and 4th quarters of 120 seconds.
- (b) For all televised games in the West, between the 1st and 2nd quarters, 90 seconds, between the 3rd and 4th quarters, 60 seconds.
- (c) For all games that are not televised--between the 1st and 2nd quarters, 60 seconds, and between the





3rd and 4th quarters, 60 seconds.

This is to accommodate radio which requires a one minute commercial.<sup>114</sup>

In the Eastern Conference, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats finished in first place again. The highlight of Hamilton's season was a 67-21 victory over the Saskatchewan Roughriders. Ten touchdown passes were thrown by the Tiger Cats, eight of them by Joe Zuger. Hamilton defeated Montreal in the two game Eastern Conference final series, winning by scores of 28-17 and 30-21. The Tiger-Cats' opponents in the 1962 Grey Cup game had a difficult time defeating Calgary, winning 12-7 in the final seconds of the final game of the best of three series.

The 1962 Grey Cup game will be remembered for many things, one of these being the controversy which erupted over the televising of the game.

The hassle began when John Basset of Toronto's private CFTO-TV, along with the nine station CTV network, sewed up rights to telecast the season's regular pro games, then outbid the CBC for the Grey Cup finale. They signed up a group of sponsors who paid \$1,500,000.00 for the entire series. But since the Grey Cup game was plainly a national institution, what of the 5,000,000 television viewers out of CTV's range.<sup>115</sup>

In order to ensure that the "5,000,000 viewers out of CTV's range" would be able to see the game, the CTV network "offered to let the C.B.C. carry the game complete with commercials (in return for \$41,000.00 in sponsors' fees).<sup>116</sup> The C.B.C., suspecting that

---

<sup>114</sup>Memorandum from G. Sydney Halter to Executive Members of the C.F.L. and General Managers of C.F.L. Clubs, July 26, 1962.

<sup>115</sup>"The Grey Cup Hassle", Article in Time Magazine, November 30, 1962, p. 1.

<sup>116</sup>Ibid.





it had been used to help the CTV sell its show to the sponsors, declined. It offered to carry the game free, "using plugs for Red Cross instead of sponsors' commercials".<sup>117</sup>

The Board of Broadcast Governors proposed "to order in the 'national interest' that C.B.C. carry the game, with CTV's advertising if necessary".<sup>118</sup> The C.B.C. secured an opinion from Deputy Justice Minister Elmer A. Driedger that the Board of Broadcast Governors' edict was beyond its powers. The controversy was aired in Parliament where:

In the Commons, Liberal Lionel Chevrier last week rose to move an emergency debate on the telecast as "a definite matter of urgent public importance". The Speaker turned him down, but across the country thousands of others saw the emergency. A Prince Albert housewife tearfully asked if she would be "deprived of watching the game simply because these two giants are locked in a struggle". Publisher Fred McGuinness of the Medicine Hat News backed the CBC: "I'm not interested in watching U.S. citizens play football, and if the C.B.C. suffers Canada will suffer." CTV's Late Evening star Pierre Berton independently proclaimed: "I've never been prouder of the C.B.C." In Calgary, Board Chairman Gordon Love of CTV-affiliate CFCN-TV declared that the affair showed the C.B.C. to be a "monster riddled with communist-type thinking."<sup>119</sup>

In the face of the mounting pressure, the C.B.C. decided to carry the game, the only one in the history of Grey Cup competition that took two days to be played. The temperature, when Prime Minister John Diefenbaker performed the ceremonial kick-off, was an unseasonable fifty-two degrees. As a result of the temperature and the proximity of cold Lake Ontario, fog formed. What came to be known as the "Fog Bowl" was stopped in the fourth quarter with

---

<sup>117</sup> Ibid.    <sup>118</sup> Ibid.    <sup>119</sup> Ibid.



Winnipeg leading 28-27 and nine minutes and twenty-nine seconds remaining to be played. After an emergency executive C.F.L. meeting, it was decided to play the remaining portion of the game on Sunday December 2, the next day. On Sunday at one o'clock, the game continued. Winnipeg had the ball on Hamilton's fifty-four yard line, second down and ten yards to go and nine minutes and twenty-nine seconds to play. Neither team scored in the remaining time and the game ended with Winnipeg defeating Hamilton by the score of 28-27. The game was an immense success from every standpoint, especially in the United States. where the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) televised the game over its "Wide World of Sports" program. The American Network paid the C.F.L. "36,000.00 plus \$2,000.00 for each commercial minute up to a total of six minutes".<sup>120</sup>

The two year period of interlocking games had come to an end with the 1962 season. It was an extremely successful venture but the Western Conference complained that the financial arrangements had been beneficial to the East. The assessment of seventy-five cents per seat for interlocking games applied to those seats between the goal line. The Western Stadia, particularly Edmonton and Calgary, had more seats of this type and as a result the West was in the position of contributing more than its Eastern counterpart. The West was also concerned with the area of closed circuit TV. Toronto was receiving \$10,000.00 per game and Montreal \$3,000.00 from this source.<sup>121</sup> The West argued that this revenue

---

<sup>120</sup>Minutes of the C.F.L. Meeting, June 28, 1962.

<sup>121</sup>Minutes of the C.F.L. Meeting, November 30, 1962.





should be considered part of the gate receipts because the closed circuit television affected the attendance at the interlocking games. The East wanted to continue the interlocking schedule, but along the same lines as previously. The meeting of February 1963 provided some bitter debate. Commissioner Halter finally stated:

. . . the Conferences would be ridiculed if the fans had to be advised that there is no interlocking schedule. He said that the subject has to be settled today, even if it is necessary to decide it upon the flip of a coin.<sup>122</sup>

The interlocking schedule was resolved without the benefit of a "flip of a coin". The new formula was that each Conference was to contribute six per cent of the gross gate receipts "for each interlocking game played in their area to the other Conference".<sup>123</sup> In addition, any revenue derived from American television was to be divided equally among the nine teams.

The second coaching change in the history of the Tiger-Cats took place early in 1963 when Jim Trimble accepted a coaching position with the Montreal Alouettes. Trimble was replaced in Hamilton by Ralph Sazio, who had been with the Hamilton organization as a player and an assistant coach since 1950.

Two items occurred in 1963 which resulted in some unfavorable publicity for the Canadian Football League. In Montreal, Sandy Stevens was suspended, the reason given that he was overweight.

Stevens summoned his lawyer who looked through the chinks in his contract with the club and the result was that Stevens was suddenly no longer on the commissioner's suspended list.<sup>124</sup>

---

<sup>122</sup>Minutes of the C.F.L. Meeting, February 16, 1962.

<sup>123</sup>Ibid.

<sup>124</sup>Bob Hesketh, "Sports", Liberty, December, 1963, p. 6.





Stevens was eventually assigned to the Toronto Argonauts. The second incident indicated the ease with which one could attain Canadian status. Tom Cloutier, an end with the Alouettes, was from the United States but was classified as a Canadian. Cloutier was "waived" by the Alouettes and claimed by the Argonauts. "It was revealed by Cloutier himself that he played for the Als under falsified citizenship conditions, that at the behest of a former Alouette official he had claimed Canadian citizenship".<sup>125</sup> The Argonauts argued that Cloutier was "claimed" as a Canadian and that he would play as one. He did.

The Edmonton Eskimos and the Toronto Argonauts announced a player trade between those two teams. Edmonton sent Jackie Parker to Toronto in return for Bill Mitchell, Joe Hernandez, Jon Rechner, Zeke Smith and Mike Wicklum, plus an unspecified amount of cash. The trade received a great deal of publicity. It appeared to solve the Argonauts' search for a quarterback, a position the team was uncertain of because of the loss of Tobin Rote. The trade also seemed to be a good one for Edmonton. Since its Grey Cup appearance in 1960, the club was growing progressively weaker and this appeared to ensure that the Eskimos would be stronger in 1963. At the end of the season, however, the Argonauts were victorious in three games and the Eskimos in two. Both finished in last place in their respective Conferences.

Hamilton finished in first place in the East and defeated the Ottawa Rough Riders at Lansdowne Park by the score of 45-0 in

---

<sup>125</sup> Minutes of the C.F.L. Meeting, November 29, 1963.



the first game of the Eastern finals. Ottawa's loss touched off a storm of protests about its performance from members of the Ottawa City Council. The Rough Riders rallied to defeat the Tiger Cats 35-18 in the second game, but Hamilton won the round 63-25.

In the West, the British Columbia Lions, led by the accurate kicking of Peter Kempf from the University of British Columbia, finished first. The Lions defeated the Saskatchewan Roughriders in the final series, winning two of the three games.

The American television rights to the Grey Cup game were again sold to the ABC network, for "in effect approximately \$45,000.00".<sup>126</sup> The publicity in the United States was highly valued by the Canadian Football League. For the Grey Cup game of 1963, there were two separate "Starting Line-up" announcements. The Canadian stations showed the actual starting line-up of the two teams, both of which contained Canadian players, showing the individual players as they were introduced at Vancouver's Empire Stadium. The American Network showed a video-taped version of the starting line-up. Three days before the game, a "starting line-up" consisting entirely of American players or players with American training was video-taped at each of the teams' practice field. This line-up was used only for stations of the ABC network. Hamilton defeated the British Columbia Lions by a 21-10 score to win the 1963 Grey Cup game, its first national championship since 1957, and the first under Ralph Sazio.

---

<sup>126</sup> Minutes of the C.F.L. Meeting, November 29, 1963.



the first year of the study (1961). The second year (1962) was a year of general economic depression in the United States. The third year (1963) was a year of general economic recovery in the United States.

It is an interesting fact that the results of the study for the first year (1961) are very similar to the results of the study for the second year (1962).

It is also an interesting fact that the results of the study for the third year (1963) are very similar to the results of the study for the first year (1961).

It is also an interesting fact that the results of the study for the second year (1962) are very similar to the results of the study for the third year (1963).

It is also an interesting fact that the results of the study for the first year (1961) are very similar to the results of the study for the second year (1962).

It is also an interesting fact that the results of the study for the second year (1962) are very similar to the results of the study for the first year (1961).

It is also an interesting fact that the results of the study for the third year (1963) are very similar to the results of the study for the second year (1962).

It is also an interesting fact that the results of the study for the first year (1961) are very similar to the results of the study for the third year (1963).

It is also an interesting fact that the results of the study for the second year (1962) are very similar to the results of the study for the first year (1961).

It is also an interesting fact that the results of the study for the third year (1963) are very similar to the results of the study for the second year (1962).

It is also an interesting fact that the results of the study for the first year (1961) are very similar to the results of the study for the third year (1963).

It is also an interesting fact that the results of the study for the second year (1962) are very similar to the results of the study for the first year (1961).

It is also an interesting fact that the results of the study for the third year (1963) are very similar to the results of the study for the second year (1962).

The Canadian Football League, as a result of its 1964 meeting in February, decided to purchase "\$9,500,000.00 worth of group life insurance that will provide a \$20,000.00 life insurance policy with a year round disability clause, free to all players under contract".<sup>127</sup> The financial share of the competing players in the Grey Cup game was also increased as a result of the meeting. In 1960, all players received \$500.00. In 1963, the players from each team received five hundred dollars, with the winning team receiving an additional \$300.00 per man. This was changed in 1964 to \$750.00 per player with the winners receiving an additional \$500.00 per man.

There were also changes in the amount of remuneration in the Eastern Football Conference. Previous to 1964, players participating in the Eastern post-season play-offs would receive \$300.00 for each game played. This was changed in 1964 to the effect that each player on the winning team in the semi-final and final series would receive an additional \$100.00. As a result, this meant that in both Conferences the amount of remuneration was similar but in the West a player might possibly play the maximum number of games, five, to reach the Grey Cup and in such an event, his earnings would be \$1,100.00 or \$220.00 per game. In the East, the maximum that a player could earn was \$1,100.00 for three games or an average of \$366.33 per game. While the increase was welcomed by the players, it still meant that, for the majority of them, remuneration for the play-off series was less per game than what each player earned during the regular season. For some players,

---

<sup>127</sup>Montreal Gazette, February 8, 1964.





however, the playoff pay represented an increase over the regular season pay.

The meeting also prevented the payment of incentive bonuses or profit-sharing schemes without the approval of the league.

. . . The move was taken in the wake of a \$21,000.00 profit sharing scheme provided players last year by B.C. Lions. The Lions divided the money on the basis of full, half, quarter and eighth shares. Regular players and coaches and trainers and equipment men received full shares. Lesser shares went to players injured during the season and the equipment assistants.<sup>128</sup>

In an effort to preserve its heritage, for which the Hall of Fame was approved in 1962, the meeting of February 7-8 approved the following original members of the Hall of Fame:<sup>129</sup>

<u>Builders</u>	<u>Players</u>	
D. "Wes" Brown	Harry Batstone	Smirle Lawson
John DeGruchy	Orm Beach	Pep Leadley
Seppi DuMoulin	Joseph Breen	Norman Perry
William Foulds	Lionel Conacher	Ted Reeve
Frank Hannibal	Earnest Cox	Jeff Russel
Al Ritchie	Jack Jacobs	David Sprague
	Edward James	Brian Timmis
	Fritz Hanson	

In the West, the B.C. Lions won eleven games and lost two while tying three, to finish in first place. They qualified to play in the Grey Cup game for the second successive year. For the Lions, it was the climax to a long difficult struggle. In 1954, when the Lions first commenced operations, Annis Stukus had the difficult task of converting rugby and soccer enthusiasts into followers of Canadian football. The Lions motto in 1954 was: "The Lions Will Roar in '54", to which many replied: "But will

---

<sup>128</sup> Ibid.

<sup>129</sup> Minutes of the C.F.L. Meeting, February 7, 8, 1964.



they survive in '55."<sup>130</sup> British Columbia supported its football team with record attendances, at first for the novelty, later hoping for a victory while expecting a loss. As the years progressed and the various coaches of the Lions were fired, the British Columbia supporters were demanding a winner. "In 1962, one abrasive columnist for the Vancouver Sun wrote: 'The Lions are football's answer to the post-nasal drip'".<sup>131</sup> In 1963, the Lions appeared in their first Grey Cup game, losing 21-10 to Hamilton. The Vancouver Sun, in its final edition of Grey Cup day, carried a running account of the Grey Cup game under the headline: "AW NUTS" . . . 'We're sort of proud of it' Dampier (A Sun executive) said grinning, 'We had it ready in type long before the game'".<sup>132</sup>

In the 1964 Grey Cup game, the Lions defeated the Tiger-Cats by a score of 34-24 and the critics of the Lions were temporarily silenced.

Early in 1965, a trade was completed between Montreal and Hamilton. The Alouettes finally acquired Bernie Faloney as well as Ralph Goldston and Jackie Simpson. In return, Hamilton received Chuck Walton, Billy Ray Locklin, Ted Page and Billy Wayte. The Tiger-Cats also received the playing rights to Don Clark, who had retired. They were unsuccessful in convincing him that he should play.

The major news of 1965 concerned the decision of the C.F.L. to limit each team to fourteen imports and three naturalized

---

<sup>130</sup> Annis Stukus, "Sports", Liberty, August 1954.

<sup>131</sup> Dave Skrein, Dick Beddoes, Countdown to Grey Cup, Toronto: McLelland and Stewart, 1965, p. 2.

<sup>132</sup> Ibid.





Canadians. The announcement was immediately and vociferously protested from many parts of the country. The move was made by the C.F.L. in an effort to decrease the rising cost of operation but it was immediately seized upon by many as being discriminatory. "According to this recent legislation", the Montreal Gazette stated, "a naturalized citizen is discriminated against if he's a professional football player".<sup>133</sup> The coaches were not happy: "I and the other coaches had absolutely no inkling that such changes were even contemplated. There's no question that this hurts a coach's chances of fielding a first class team",<sup>134</sup> said Dave Skrein. The players were not happy: "'There's no protection now', said Angelo Mosca, the big American-born tackle of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, 'If I'd known this was going to happen I wouldn't have changed my citizenship'".<sup>135</sup> Other affected players such as Billy Shipp and Dick Shatto also denounced the legislation. Shipp said that he had considered playing in the A.F.L. when that league was formed but "he didn't do it because he believed he could prolong his playing career by remaining in Canada and becoming a naturalized citizen".<sup>136</sup> Shatto inquired "if a naturalized citizen in Canada is only a secondary citizen."<sup>137</sup> The C.F.L. legislation was also discussed in the Ontario legislature. John Yaremko, Provincial

---

<sup>133</sup> Montreal Gazette, February 22, 1965.

<sup>134</sup> Montreal Gazette, February 19, 1965.

<sup>135</sup> Montreal Gazette, February 22, 1965.

<sup>136</sup> Ibid.

<sup>137</sup> Ibid.





Secretary and Minister of Citizenship, stated:

This ruling is reprehensible to say the least. It is repugnant to the very basic principle we are striving for in the development of our Canadian way of life-- the principle of equality.<sup>138</sup>

Three players, Milt Campbell of the Toronto Argonauts, Kaye Vaughan of Ottawa and Angelo Mosca of Hamilton announced that they were filing a grievance with the Ontario Human Rights Commission. The application was later withdrawn.

As a direct result, a C.F.L. players' association was formed. Such an association had been mentioned as early as 1961 when the Ottawa Rough Riders named Bobby Simpson and Gary Schreider as players' representatives. The two players were "to dicker with the club management on issues, including payment for exhibition and Grey Cup games, accommodation, public appearances and training camp conditions".<sup>139</sup> The Ottawa club was mainly dissatisfied with the then existing arrangement regarding remuneration for Grey Cup appearances. Both competing teams at that time received five hundred dollars. In 1962, another effort to set up an association was made, this one by Ted Duncan, a Calgary Lawyer.

The Canadian Football Players Association became a reality as a result of meetings held at the Constellation Hotel in Toronto on May 15 and 16 of 1965. At that meeting, the following were present: Montreal, Clare Exelby and Ralph Goldston; Hamilton, Zeno Karcz and Frank Cosentino; Calgary, Don Luzzi; Edmonton,

---

<sup>138</sup> Montreal Gazette, February 23, 1965.

<sup>139</sup> Edmonton Journal, February 7, 1961.



Tommy-Joe Coffey; Regina, Reg Whitehouse; Vancouver, Norm Fieldgate; Ottawa, Gary Schreider; Winnipeg Norm Rauhaus; Toronto, Dick Shatto. Gary Schreider was elected President, Norm Rauhaus, Vice President and Dick Shatto, Secretary-Treasurer. John Agro, Q.C., a Hamilton attorney, who was also present at the meeting, was appointed the legal advisor for the Association.<sup>140</sup>

As a result of the adverse publicity, the C.F.L. reviewed the legislation and decided to base the distinction between an import and a non-import on football playing experience rather than nationality. According to the new ruling, the following players would be classified as imports.

- (a) A player who has received training in football outside Canada by having participated as a player in a football game outside Canada prior to his 17th birthday.
- (b) A player who has received training in football outside Canada by having participated in a football game as a player outside of Canada after his 17th birthday but who has received no football training in Canada prior to his seventeenth birthday.<sup>141</sup>

The new regulation was not to be imposed upon anyone who was previously classified as a non-import or those who acquired Canadian citizenship prior to July 20, 1965.

For the fifth consecutive year and the eighth time in nine years, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats won the Eastern Conference championship. Winnipeg, after finishing in last place in the West in 1964, recovered remarkably in 1965 and won the Western Conference championship.

---

<sup>140</sup>Minutes of the Canadian Football Players Association meeting, May 14, 15, 1965.

<sup>141</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, August 14, 1968.





The Grey Cup game was played "in a howling gale which turned C.N.E. Stadium into a giant wind tunnel".<sup>142</sup> The wind was of such intensity that a special rule was put into effect: "It was not explained to the fans nor television viewers who were left in the dark as no yards penalties were continually ignored. In effect the rule eliminated fumbles on short punts into the wind and also eliminated no yards calls".<sup>143</sup> Coach Ralph Sazio did not inform his players of the ruling, fearing that there might be a tendency for them to ease up on their third down coverage, resulting in a large gain or possible touchdown by Winnipeg. The game ended with Hamilton victorious by a 22-16 score, the margin of victory being three safety-touches conceded by Winnipeg. Bud Grant had ordered the concessions so as to maintain possession while facing into the strong wind. If Winnipeg had kicked instead of conceding the points, Hamilton would have had the ball within field-goal range, if indeed it was not successful in scoring a touchdown, argued Grant, rationalizing his coaching strategy.

The 1966 C.F.L. meeting in Calgary removed all interference restrictions on passing and running plays. As a result of this ruling the only time that blocking assistance could not be given to the ball-carrier was on the reception of a third down kick or a field goal attempt. The meeting also eliminated the contentious "contacting the kicker" rule by allowing "incidental contact, without a penalty

---

<sup>142</sup>Montreal Gazette, November 29, 1965.

<sup>143</sup>Ibid.





when the contact has no bearing on the play".<sup>144</sup> For the first time, communications during the game between the players and the coaches was allowed. Prior to 1966, the rule stated: "There shall be no communications, either verbally or by signal of any kind, between a player who is on the field-of-play to or from a non-player who is off the field of play."<sup>145</sup>

The penalty for this infraction was ten yards but it is doubtful if such a penalty had ever been called by the officials during the post-war era. Many coaches, even before the rule was rescinded, were calling defensive alignments for their team by means of pre-arranged hand signals, a practice which continued after the rule was changed. The meeting also discussed the Committee On One League report, otherwise known as the "COOL" report. It was accepted, "subject to a formula that will be fair and equitable to all current members of the C.F.L." <sup>146</sup> The report recommended a nine-way sharing of television revenue, gate equalization, a central office in Toronto and consideration of a fifth Eastern Conference franchise, possibly in London, Quebec City or Halifax. The recommendations, if adopted, would make the C.F.L. more than just a governing body for the two conferences. The meeting also provided official recognition for the Players' Association. Pat Mahoney of Calgary and Ian Barclay of Vancouver were appointed to meet the players' representatives.

The Eastern Conference playoffs of 1966 opened with Hamilton

---

<sup>144</sup>Ibid.

<sup>145</sup>Official Playing Rules of the C.F.L., 1965.

<sup>146</sup>Montreal Gazette, February 25, 1966.



defeating Montreal in the sudden-death semi-final by a score of 24-14. Ottawa, as a result of its first place finish, was favored to represent the East in the Grey Cup game of 1966. The death of line coach Bill Smythe on Sunday, November 7, cast a pall of gloom over the Ottawa team. Frank Clair kindly refused an offer of coaching assistance from the British Columbia Lions. Clair named five members of his team as "leaders-sub coaches".<sup>147</sup> The five players were Joe Poirier and Bob O'Billovich, in charge of defensive backs; Ken Lehman and Billy Joe Booth, in charge of linemen; Gene Gaines, overall defensive coach.

The Ottawa team, wearing black mourning arm-bands, defeated the Tiger-Cats in Hamilton, by a 30-1 score. Because Ottawa's Lansdowne Park was undergoing renovations due to the construction of a new grandstand with an arena enclosed below it, the second game was played at the Montreal Autostade on the Expo '67 site. Ottawa, maintaining its emotional peak, defeated Hamilton, on November 19, by the score of 42-16, winning the round by a one-sided 72-17. The game also marked the first time in Canada that a new type of goal post was used. The new posts consisted of "a single post, goose-necked marker set six feet behind the goal line. The single up-right arcs gently forward to hold the cross-bar and the uprights that extend from it directly over the goal line."<sup>148</sup>

The Western Conference championship was won by the Saskatchewan Roughriders. The sudden-death semi-final game, which was effected

---

<sup>147</sup> Montreal Gazette, November 8, 1966.

<sup>148</sup> Montreal Gazette, November 16, 1966.





in the West in 1965, was won by Winnipeg, who defeated the Edmonton Eskimos by a 16-8 score. Many observers were convinced that the Blue Bombers would represent the West, again. Saskatchewan, coached by Eagle Keys, defeated Winnipeg in two consecutive games, 14-7 and 21-19, to win the Western championship.

Since its last Grey Cup appearance in 1951, Saskatchewan's teams had experienced more losing than winning seasons. The loss, in 1956, of Sturtridge, Beckett, DeMarco and Syrnyk, contributed to the team's last place finish in 1957. During the seasons of 1959 and 1960, the Roughriders won only three games. Jim Van Pelt of Winnipeg threw seven touchdown passes against them in 1959, and in 1962, the Tiger-Cats accounted for ten touchdowns, all by passes, in defeating Saskatchewan. With the re-organization of the club in 1960 under Bob Kramer, Saskatchewan started to improve gradually with every season. It was a slow process, unwittingly aided by many rival general managers. Many times, when a club was having difficulty signing a player, the general manager would state: "We can't pay you that kind of money but I'll check with Regina and see if they are interested in you." For most players the mere thought of Saskatchewan was enough of an inducement to agree to terms but among the players who did report to Saskatchewan, a fierce "spirit" evolved. "The most touching episode of Regina's football mania was provided by Byron Vaughn, an end who died of leukemia in 1961. His last wish was to be buried in his green and white Saskatchewan jersey."<sup>149</sup>

---

<sup>149</sup>Montreal Gazette, November 24, 1966.





By 1966, the Roughriders were one of the wealthiest teams in Canada, aided by an annual \$100.00 a plate dinner which nearly seven hundred people attended in 1966.

In the Grey Cup game, representatives of the media solved one of their problems by referring to the Saskatchewan team as the "Green Riders" and Ottawa as the "Red Riders". For the first time, a team representing Saskatchewan was victorious in a Grey Cup game. The score was 29-14.

Prior to the playing of the game, the C.F.L. held its annual meeting in Vancouver. At the meeting, the president of the C.R.U., Bill McEwan, turned the trusteeship of the Grey Cup over to the Canadian Football League. The C.R.U. also decided to change its name to the Canadian Amateur Football Association.

During the same meeting, Sydney Halter retired as commissioner of the C.F.L. and was immediately accepted into the Hall of Fame. A Canadian Olympic Fund was initiated in Halter's name "with a \$5,000.00 cheque to aid in the development of minor sports in Canada".<sup>150</sup> The League also presented Halter with a silver cigar box engraved with the emblems of the nine C.F.L. clubs, a silver tray, a lighter and an engraved plaque. Halter's successor, Senator Keith Davey, was presented with giant-sized football shoes to signify "the large shoes he has to fill".<sup>151</sup>

Senator Davey reigned as the Canadian Football League Commissioner

---

<sup>150</sup> Montreal Gazette, November 25, 1966.

<sup>151</sup> Ibid.



for fifty-four days. During that period, Davey incurred the wrath of many of the clubs by doing "far too much talking for public consumption, long before he took over the office of commissioner on January 1."<sup>152</sup> Amid rumors that he would be fired, Davey, at the C.F.L. annual meetings of February 22-24, asked for a vote of confidence from the C.F.L. teams. "Toronto Argonauts, a team which has been among his chief critics, moved the motion for such a vote but the senator and the delegates sat silent with no seconder forthcoming."<sup>153</sup> Senator Davey resigned.

The C.F.L. received much criticism from the various members of the Press. Dick Beddoes of the Globe and Mail wrote: "What the owners really want is a puppet, who, if it comes down to telling the truth about the C.F.L. or telling a lie, will automatically tell a lie." Roger Labonte of Le Devoir stated: "The magnates of Canadian football have shown how short-sighted they are. What an astonishing spectacle they have made of themselves to the fans in the last two days."<sup>154</sup>

Eight hours after the resignation of Senator Davey, Allan McEachern, the president of the British Columbia Lions, was named temporary commissioner. Helping to run the administrative affairs of the C.F.L. was a three man committee comprised of Jake Gaudaur of Hamilton, Hugh McColl of Edmonton and Lew Hayman of Toronto. A further committee of two delegates from each conference was formed to seek a new commissioner. The general reaction to the chain of

---

<sup>152</sup> Jim Coleman, Syndicated Column in the Edmonton Journal, February 10, 1967.

<sup>153</sup> Edmonton Journal, February 24, 1967.

<sup>154</sup> Canadian Press Article in the Edmonton Journal, February 24, 1967.





events was best summed up in the words of columnist Jim Coleman when he stated: "Oh well, Thursday's announcement proved something which always I have suspected: Canadian football must be truly great entertainment because it survives in spite of the men who run the game."<sup>155</sup>

One small problem still existed for the C.F.L. as a result of the Davey affair. Spalding's had manufactured two thousand balls with Keith Davey's name imprinted upon them as commissioner of the C.F.L.<sup>156</sup>

There were other changes in 1967. Bud Grant left Winnipeg to become the coach of the Minnesota Vikings of the N.F.L. Grant was replaced in Winnipeg by Joe Zaleski. In British Columbia, Joe Kapp was suspended by the Lions and, like Gilchrist previously, was waived through the C.F.L. and joined the Minnesota Vikings. British Columbia acquired quarterback Bernie Faloney from Montreal and later during the season replaced coach Dave Skrein with Jim Champion. Hamilton and Edmonton completed a trade in which the Tiger-Cats received Tommy-Joe Coffey, Bill Reddell, Marshall Starks and Ed Turek in return for Frank Cosentino, Don Sutherin, Gerry McDougall and Billy Wayte. The Argonauts replaced coach Bob Shaw with Leo Cahill, a former Montreal assistant under Perry Moss.

By 1967, the majority of teams in Canada were using "audibles", a system whereby the play which was indicated in the huddle could be changed at the line of scrimmage. Teams such as Calgary, coached by

---

<sup>155</sup> Jim Coleman, Syndicated Column in the Edmonton Journal, February 24, 1967.

<sup>156</sup> Edmonton Journal, February 28, 1967.





Jerry Williams and quarterbacked by Peter Liske, employed a passing attack and were dependent upon the use of audibles. All clubs in the C.F.L. used a variety of defenses. Many coaches stressed defense in meetings and practices on the theory that their team could not lose if the opposition did not score.

The 4-3-5 defensive alignment had replaced all others as the most commonly used. Defensive tactics became so sophisticated that it became almost impossible for the quarterback to predict which defense would be employed against a particular formation. As a result, if the quarterback called a certain play in the huddle, anticipating a certain defense, and the anticipation proved false, the play would likely gain little yardage. The use of audibles provided the answer. The quarterback could still call his play in the huddle and if the anticipation of the defense proved accurate, the play would stand as called. On the other hand the quarterback could change to another play at the line of scrimmage in order to take advantage of a defensive weakness.

Two of Canada's most successful teams did not use a system of audibles. Bud Grant thought that "audibles weren't worth the risk because they require precision and can result in fumbles".<sup>157</sup> Both Jim Trimble and Ralph Sazio preferred to play a conventional conservative game, depending on power rather than finesse. Hamilton's success was certainly based on preparation, paying attention to the smallest of details and by constant practice, perfection of plays

---

<sup>157</sup> Dan Proudfoot, "You Get Stomped On A Lot In 19 Years", The Canadian, September 16, 1967.



designed to exploit the opposition's weakness. Because of this, Hamilton in the late 1950's and the 1960's acquired a reputation for "dull" and "lucky" football. Gene Gossage, a guard for Hamilton in 1963, in answer to a charge that Hamilton was a "lucky" team, stated that luck existed when preparation met opportunity.

Terms normally used during warfare were very common during discussion of games. A forward pass might be referred to as an "aerial strike", a long pass a "bomb". The line was referred to as the "infantry", a fullback as a "tank". One of the most common terms used was "blitz". The term was derived from warfare and new descriptive terminology was invented in order to immediately give the impression as to what defensive "blitz" was being used by an opponent. A "normal" defensive rush existed when the four defensive linemen charged across the line of scrimmage. When the four linemen and the middle linebacker charged, it was given the name of "Mac rush". When the four linemen and one outside linebacker rushed, it was called a "dog". "Double Dog" would be used if both outside linebackers rushed. If all Linebackers rushed, it was called an "all dog". If the Safety blitzed, this was called a "hound dog". It would be the quarterback's responsibility, therefore, to study game films of opponents in order to ascertain any clues to the type of variation an opponent might use. Once a clue or "key" was found, the quarterback could use this information in order to audible to a new play in an attempt to turn what would normally be considered a disadvantage into an advantage.

Because 1967 was Centennial Year in Canada, the Grey Cup game was played in Ottawa, the National Capital. Saskatchewan, having defeated Calgary in a bitterly fought Western Final series, represented the West for the second consecutive year. The Roughriders'





opponents were the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, who defeated Ottawa rather convincingly in the eastern two game total point series. Hamilton continued to exhibit the almost flawless football it had displayed in the latter part of the season and defeated the western team by the score of 24-1.

At the C.F.L. meeting in February of 1968, Jacob Gill "Jake" Gaudaur was appointed Commissioner of that body. The appointment, effective April 1, 1968, was for a five year term. Gaudaur, at the time of his appointment, had accumulated a total of twenty-eight years experience as a player, club director and general manager. The meeting was also noteworthy because of the unanimous adoption of the C.O.O.L. report. ". . . The action in approving the one-league concept was not new. The principles involved were approved at last year's meeting, but it took football lawyers a year to phrase their agreement in proper language."<sup>158</sup>

The C.F.L. was also preparing schedules one year in advance. There were many problems involved in arranging suitable schedules for the nine teams. The ideal schedule from many points of view would be to alternate a team's games, one week at home, the next week away.

". . . But you come up against the problems Toronto and Ottawa and Vancouver have to face with their Exhibitions. Toronto can't play at home for three weeks. Ottawa and Vancouver miss two weeks each", said Gaudaur. "Most clubs won't play on Jewish holidays and in Western Canada you can't schedule games for Thursday or Friday night because those are big shopping nights."<sup>159</sup>

---

<sup>158</sup> Toronto Globe and Mail, February 10, 1968.

<sup>159</sup> Toronto Globe and Mail, June 6, 1968.





Changes were made in the rosters of clubs. All thirty-two players on a team's roster were allowed to participate in the game. The fourteenth import, however, "must be designated as such and may be used only to replace another import player. The import thus replaced may not re-enter the game."<sup>160</sup> At the same meeting, the league raised the salary of a referee from \$125.00 to \$150.00 per game.

Peter Liske, in addition to leading the Calgary Stampeders to the Western Conference championship in 1968 also earned a Master's degree in Business Administration at Penn State University. For his thesis, Liske conducted a survey of 490 Canadian football season ticket holders. Each was asked for his views concerning seven areas of Canadian football: import ratios, scheduling, rule changes, the playoff system, pre-season games, television coverage and half-time entertainment.<sup>161</sup> From the results, Liske ascertained that supporters in five cities favored an increase in the number of imports; a decisive majority favored blocking on punt returns but a large segment wanted to retain the game's main Canadian characteristics of three downs and ten yards.

The 1968 season ended in Canada with the playing of the Grey Cup game between the Ottawa Rough Riders and the Calgary Stampeders. With the telecasting of the game in color, the Canadian National Exhibition field was resplendently decorated. The sidelines, widened to a width of more than twelve inches, the goal lines and the

---

<sup>160</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, June 7, 1968.

<sup>161</sup>Andy O'Brien, "Football As The Fans Want It", Weekend Magazine, No. 46, p. 15.



forty-five yard lines, were all painted gold rather than the normal white. Each end zone displayed a large red maple leaf under which were the words "Grey Cup", in French in one end zone and English in the other. Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau performed the ceremonial kick-off and 32,655 spectators in attendance witnessed two evenly matched teams in an exciting contest. Ottawa, aided by an 80 yard touchdown run by Vic Washington and a 70 yard pass and run play from Russ Jackson to Margene Adkins, defeated the Stampeders by the score of 24-21.

The normally staid city of Ottawa responded to the Rough Rider victory by erupting into a victory celebration which reached its climax as the team returned home.

When the players flew in at noon yesterday they were welcomed by 3,000 jubilant fans with showers of confetti, rice and ticker tape. The reception was so enthusiastic that the players formed a flying wedge around their wives to get through to the baggage department. Fans invaded the airport despite a radio plea that parking facilities were hard to find. Some abandoned cars a mile away and walked.<sup>162</sup>

---

<sup>162</sup>Toronto Globe and Mail, December 2, 1968.





## SUMMARY

Canadian football in 1968 was an entirely different game from that played in 1909. Fervently amateur in 1909, it was thoroughly professional in 1968. The best exponents in its formative years were the universities and athletic clubs, whereas during the professional era it became the province of business concerns. The style of play had evolved from a loose spontaneous form to that of a well planned and orderly attack.

It was more than just a game in 1909. A description of the rules was accompanied by the word "code", suggesting an adherence to the spirit of the rules rather than the letter. This was almost certainly the result of the influence of the English spirit of "fair play" promoted by the games of that society.

As the years progressed, however, the English influence diminished and was replaced by American ideas, so much so that, in 1968, every head and assistant coach in the C.F.L. was American born as were five of the nine general managers.

The game evolved from the notion that a player had to gain yardage through his own resourcefulness and skill to the point where each of a player's teammates could interfere for him and aid him to gain yardage. Not all characteristics of the game had changed. The dimensions of the field were still the same; a team still had to make ten yards in three attempts; unlimited backfield motion was still allowed as was the Rouge, although it was better known by the term "single point".

Curiously enough, the modern game was becoming akin to the earlier game in one regard. With the development of a system of





"audibles", the game had almost returned to the original concept of calling out signals at the line of scrimmage in order to put the ball into play. Even with the additional stress on the offensive team, it was still allowed only twenty seconds in which to put the ball into play.

The changes in equipment serve to indicate the increasing physical contact in the modern game. Players who participated without protective headgear and padding eventually gave way to ones wearing pads on almost every part of their body. Unlimited substitution brought about the increased specialization in the game. No longer was it necessary to play sixty minutes of every game, offensively and defensively. Players' salaries increased to the point where one could command a better rate of pay for playing football than for a key position of employment in society. Professional football players were, in 1968, recipients of salaries, pensions and group insurance the same as were individuals in other areas of employment.

Many of the changes were the result of the declining influence of the British traditions and the corresponding increase of American ideas within Canadian culture. American innovations, such as the snap-back system, interference and the forward pass changed the style of play to such an extent that it became almost an impossibility for teams to depend upon native-born Canadian players. As a result, it became increasingly necessary to import American players, and the more that this was done, the more it became necessary to change the game to suit American training. In the initial stages of this mass importation, the native-born player was known as the "homebrew"--a



connotation which reinforced the idea that the Canadian player was a substitute for the "real thing".

If football in 1909 could be considered to be a hybrid form of an English pastime, Canadian football of 1968 could be considered to be a hybrid form of an American game. The aim in both cases, however, was similar--to win an Englishman's Cup.





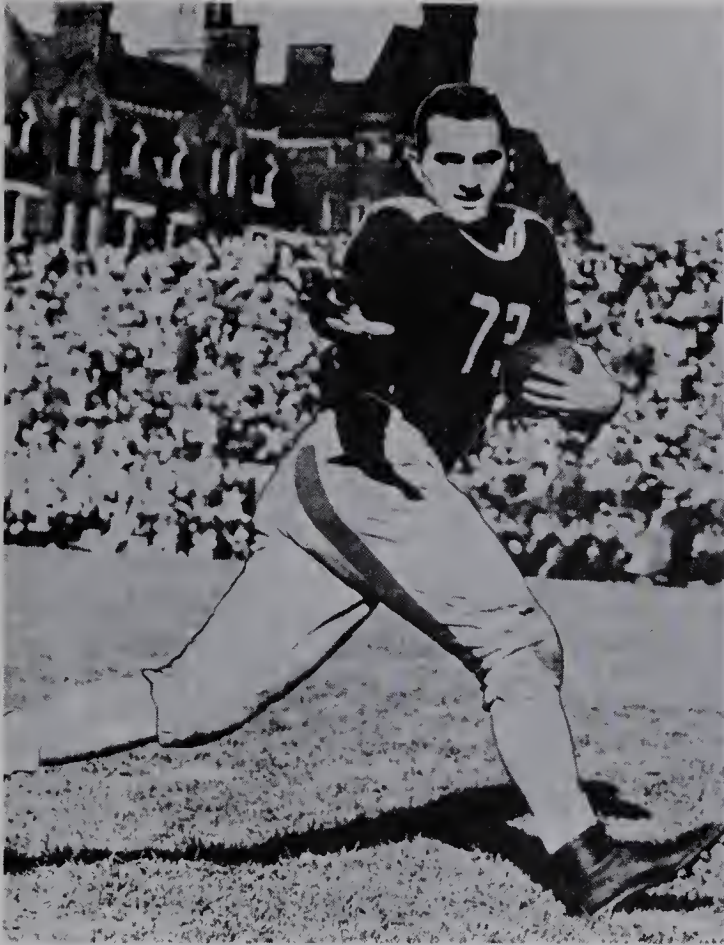


Fig. 33. Joe Krol

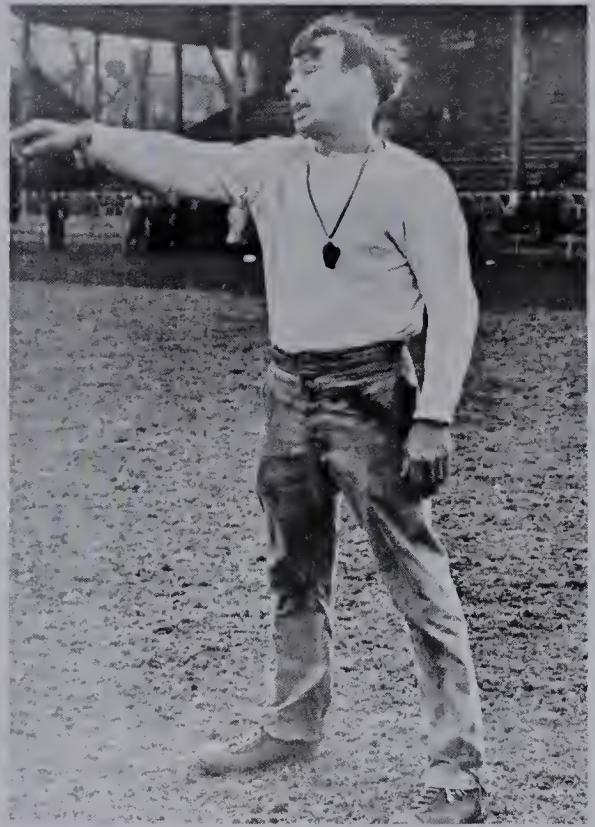


Fig. 34. Ted Morris



Fig. 35. Royal Copeland



Fig. 36. Tony Golab









Fig. 37. Frank Filchok



Fig. 38. Les Lear



Fig. 39. "Mud Bowl", 1950



Fig. 40. Normie Kwong







Fig. 41. Calgary Stampeders, 1948



Fig. 42. Huffman, Filchok, Princess Elizabeth, Philip, Mrs. W. Sprague, Edmonton, October 27, 1951







Fig. 43. Rollie Miles



Fig. 44. Don Getty



Fig. 45. Johnny Bright

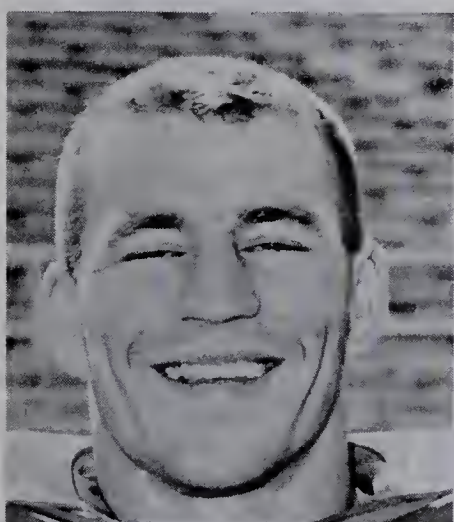


Fig. 46. Gerry James



Fig. 47. Pop Ivy



Fig. 48. Bud Grant



Fig. 49. Leo Lewis #29









Fig. 50. Don Clark



Fig. 51. George Dixon



Fig. 52. Bobby Kuntz



Fig. 53. Ron Stewart



Fig. 54. Kaye Vaughan



Fig. 55. Tommy Joe Coffey



Fig. 56. Hal Patterson

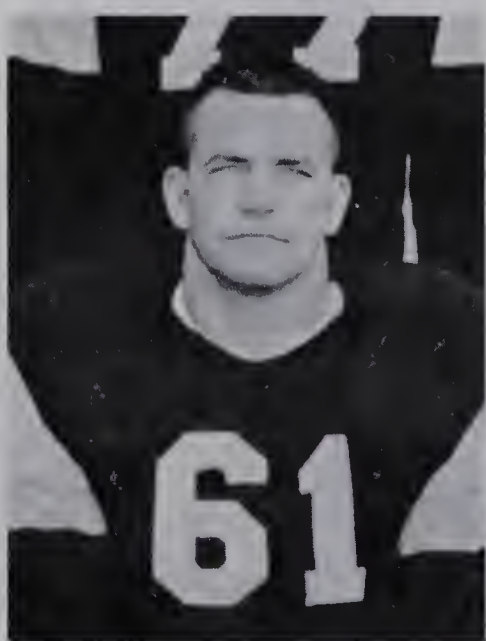


Fig. 57. John Barrow



Fig. 58. Wayne Harris







Fig. 59. Sam Etcheverry



Fig. 60. Bernie Faloney



Fig. 61. Tobin Rote



Fig. 62. Jackie Parker



Fig. 63. Ralph Sazio, Jim Trimble



Fig. 64. Jack Jacobs



Fig. 65. Peter Liske

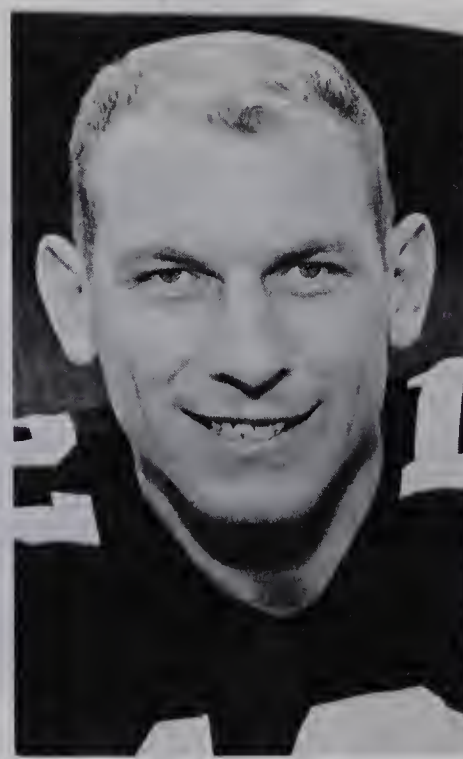


Fig. 66. Russ Jackson







Fig. 67.  
Single-Bar Face Mask



Fig. 68.  
Half-"Bird-Cage" Mask



Fig. 69.  
Plastic Band Mask



Fig. 70.  
"Snubber" Nose Protector



Fig. 71.  
Special Face Mask



Fig. 72.  
"Birdcage"



Fig. 73. 1924, 1934, 1962 Balls

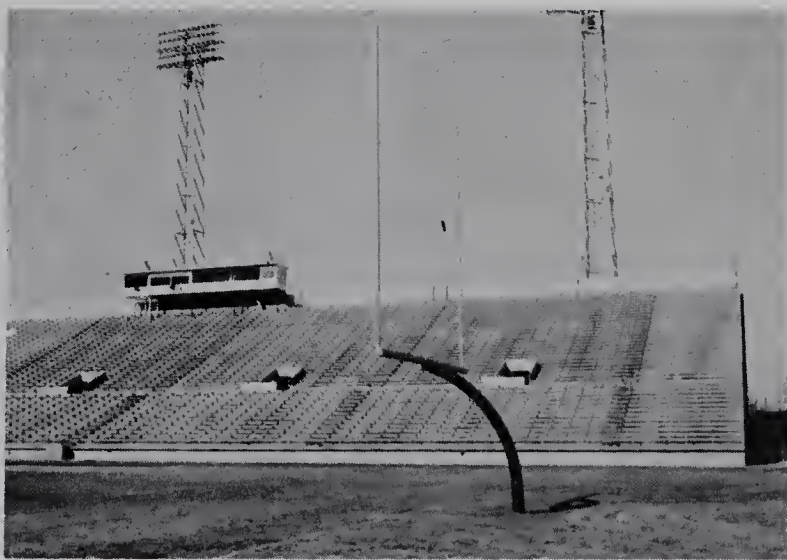


Fig. 74. Goose-necked Goal-Post









## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### BOOKS

- Allan, Tony. Football Today and Yesterday. Winnipeg: Harlequin Books, 1962.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Grey Cup Calvalcade. Winnipeg: Harlequin Books, 1959.
- Begbie, Harold. Albert Fourth Earl Grey--A Last Word. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1917.
- Currie, Gordon. 100 Years of Canadian Football. Toronto: Pagurian Press Limited, 1968.
- Hewitt, W.A. Down the Stretch. Toronto: The Ryerson Press, 1958.
- Howell and Howell. Sports and Games in Canadian Life. Toronto: Macmillan of Canada Ltd., 1969.
- Krout, John Allen. Annals of American Sport. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1929.
- McAllister, Ron. Football Stars . . . Today and Yesterday. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart Limited, 1950.
- Reed, T.A. The Blue and White. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1944.
- Reeve, Ted. Grandstand Quarterback. Toronto: Longmans, Green and Company, 1955.
- Roxborough, Henry. Great Days In Canadian Sport. Toronto: The Ryerson Press, 1957.
- Skrein, Dave and Dick Beddoes. Countdown To Grey Cup. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1965.
- Sullivan, Jack. The Grey Cup Story. Toronto: Beattie Publications, 1955.

### LETTERS, INTERVIEWS AND UNPUBLISHED MATERIAL

- Batstone, Harry. Interview with the writer, May 17, 1968.
- Canadian Football League. Minutes of annual meetings, 1958-1964.
- Canadian Football Players' Association. Minutes of Organizational Meeting, May 14, 15, 1965.
- Canadian Rugby Union. Minutes of annual meetings, 1891-1916.





Davidson, Stewart Alexander. "A History of Sports and Games in Eastern Canada Prior to World War I", Unpublished Ed.D. Thesis, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, 1951.

Dean, Bob. Interview with the writer, March 25, 1969.

Gaudaur, Jacob Gill. Letter to the writer, March 5, 1969.

\_\_\_\_\_. Interview with the writer, May 11, 1968.

Hanbury-Williams, J. Letter to D.B. Macdonald, April 2, 1909, Hamilton: Football Hall of Fame.

\_\_\_\_\_. Letter to H.B. McGiverin, May 3, 1909, Hamilton: Football Hall of Fame.

\_\_\_\_\_. Telegram to H.B. McGiverin, May 31, 1909, Hamilton: Football Hall of Fame.

Inksetter, Bruce. Letter to the writer, December 12, 1968.

Leadley, Frank. Interview with the writer, May 17, 1968.

Lieberman, Moe. Interview with the writer, March 9, 1968.

Macdonald, Bruce. Letter to Arthur Guise, February 7, 1910, Hamilton: Football Hall of Fame.

\_\_\_\_\_. Letter to H.B. McGiverin, March 22, 1910, Hamilton: Football Hall of Fame.

McGiverin, H.B. Letter to Arthur Sladen, November 5, 1909, Hamilton: Football Hall of Fame.

\_\_\_\_\_. Letter to Arthur Guise, April 4, 1910, Hamilton: Football Hall of Fame.

Metras, John. Conversation with the writer, 1959.

Morris, Frank. Interview with the writer, March 13, 1969.

Rodden, M.J. Interview with the writer, May 17, 1968.

Ross, P.D. Letter to Sir Hanbury-Williams, March 29, 1909, Hamilton: Football Hall of Fame.

Ryan, Joseph. Interview with the writer, April 15, 1968.

Simpson, James. Interview with the writer, May 23, 1968.

\_\_\_\_\_. Letter to the writer, March 7, 1968.





Stevens, Warren. Letter to the writer, March 15, 1968.

Timmis, Brian. Interview with the writer, May 23, 1968.

Western Interprovincial Football Union. Minutes of annual meetings, 1956-1964.

#### MAGAZINES AND PERIODICALS

Alderman, Tom. "Football's Ace Failure: Bernie Faloney of the Ti-Cats", Liberty, October, 1959, p. 25, 50, 53.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Ron Stewart: Mighty Mite of Canadian Football", Liberty, November, 1961, p. 30, 47.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Biggest Bloopers of Grey Cup Games", Liberty, November, 1960, p. 21, 50.

Beddoes, Dick. "Western Canada Football Teams Grab at Grey Cup", Liberty, November, 1956, p. 32, 70.

Brown, J.L. "Wanted: More Gridiron Speed", National Home Monthly, November 1941, p. 4, 40, 41.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Carry On", National Home Monthly, October, 1940, p. 20.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Pigskin Warfare", National Home Monthly, November, 1939, p. 22, 40, 54.

Carroll, J.A. "Drama The Crowd Misses", Maclean's, November 1, 1938, p. 19, 37-38.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Football Town: They Take Their Football Seriously in Sarnia", Maclean's, October 15, 1938, p. 19, 45.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Football Forecast East and West", Maclean's, October 1, 1938, p. 10, 41, 42.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Pigskin Imports", Maclean's, September 15, 1936, p. 10, 47-48.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Forward Pass Time", Maclean's, October 15, 1936, p. 14, 52-53.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Pity The Poor Quarterback", Maclean's, November 1, 1937, p. 16, 26, 28.

Clair, Frank. "Why I Quit Canadian Football", Liberty, September 1955, p. 24, 25, 68.

Coleman, J.A. "That Was Football", Saturday Night, September 12, 1953, p. 21-22.



- \_\_\_\_\_. "What's The Score in '54", Saturday Night, January 9, 1954, p. 22.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Grey Cup: Corn and Cornucopia", Saturday Night, November 21, 1959, p. 11-13.
- Conacher, Lionel. "You've Got To Be Tough", Maclean's, September, 1936, p. 14, 15.
- Crichton, Hec. "It's Time To Bring Back Canadian Football", Maclean's, November 1, 1954, p. 24, 25, 57-62.
- Davies, Conway James. "Official and Private Record and Manuscript Collections in The Priors Kitchen, Durham", Society of Archivists, Volume 1(10), 1959, p. 261-270.
- DeGeer, Vern. "Sports", Liberty, March, 1954, p. 11, 12.
- DeGruchy, John. "We Nominate The All-Eastern, We Nominate The All-Western", Maclean's, December 15, 1934, p. 10, 41, 42.
- Dumsday, Bill. "East Is Not West In Sport", Maclean's, December 1, 1933, p. 12, 38.
- Edwards, Frederick. "Bill Hughes Talks Football". Maclean's, September 15, 1937, October 1, 1937, October 15, 1937.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Old Fashioned Father Frank Shaughnessy", Maclean's, October 1, 1934, p. 15, 38-39.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Maker Of Champions", Maclean's, November 1, 1933, p. 16, 28.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "The Making of McGill", Maclean's, November 1, 1929, p. 12-13, 28, 58, 60, October 15, 1929, p. 14-15, 71-73.
- Etcheverry, Sam. "Is Eastern Football On The Skids", Liberty, October, 1957, p. 26, 73.
- Fitkin, Ed. "What's TV Doing To Sports", Liberty, February, 1955, p. 15.
- Fleming, Don. "Is Jackie Parker Canada's Best Quarterback", Liberty, October, 1961, p. 30, 45-46.
- Frayne Trent. "The Twelve Giants of Football: 1958", Liberty, November, 1958, p. 18-19, 66-67.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Jackie Parker and Friends", Saturday Night, September 1, 1956, p. 17-19.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Canadians Really Can Play Football", Saturday Night, December 22, 1956, p. 12-13.





- \_\_\_\_\_. "The Fan Who Took Over The Argos," Maclean's, July 9, 1955, p. 12, 38-41.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Who'll Blow The Grey Cup This Year," Maclean's, December 1, 1953, p. 26-27, 62-65.
- Frederickson, Frank. "The Grey Cup And Football Are Strictly For The Birds," Maclean's, November 21, 1959, p. 65-66.
- Gallamore, J. "It Just Goes To Show: Star Halfback Doesn't Usually Muff Examinations," Canadian, December, 1932.
- Good, Charles H. "All-Time, All-Star Canadian Rugbeists," Maclean's, November 15, 1929, p. 14-15, 74-75.
- Grant, Bud. "How We'll Beat The Edmonton Eskimos," Liberty, October, 1958, p. 26, 62.
- Hesketh, B. "That Grey Cup: Canada's Annual Touch of Madness," Saturday Night, November 22, 1958, p. 16-17, 54-56.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Sports," Liberty, August, 1963, p. 8.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Sports," Liberty, December, 1963, p. 6.
- Hewitt, W.A. "Training A College Football Team," Maclean's, November, 1912, p. 100-105.
- Kinsella, J. "Jimmy McCrafty, The Cunning Irishman," Official Souvenir Program, 1959 Grey Cup Game, p. 31-32.
- Kingstone, A.C. and C.A.S. Boddy. "Characteristics of Canadian Football," Outing, December, 1892, p. 247-251.
- Knox, Ronnie. "Why I'm Canadian Football's Golden Boy," Liberty, September 1959, p. 24, 53.
- Krol, Joe. "Joe Krol Says--They're Ruining Rugby," Maclean's, September 15, 1949, p. 13, 26-30.
- Lowe, A. "Rugger or Rugby," Canadian, May, 1930, p. 3.
- McKenzie, R. Tait. "Rugby Football in Canada," Dominion Illustrated Monthly, February, 1892, p. 11-19.
- Marks, J.N. "Pigskin Feud," Maclean's, October 1, 1940, p. 17, 30.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Seven Yards To Go," Maclean's, October 1, 1940, p. 17, 30.
- Marsh, Lou. "How Amateur Are Canadian Amateurs," Maclean's, October 15, 1925, p. 16-17, 46-51.
- McIlroy, K. "Those Rugby Ructions," Saturday Night, May 16, 1950, p. 27.





- \_\_\_\_\_. "American Coaches Dominate Canadian Football--Whence And Whither," Saturday Night, September 27, 1952, p. 11, 21.
- McKelvey, J.A. "A Story Of Recent Football At Queen's," Queen's Quarterly, January-March, 1928, p. 288-296.
- McNaughton, J. "Some Personal Impressions Of The Late Earl Grey," University Magazine, October, 1917, p. 338-339.
- Merry, R. "Rah For Rugger," Canadian, December, 1935, p. 17-.
- Moore, J.H. "Football's Ugly Decades," Smithsonian Journal of History, Fall, 1967, p. 49-68.
- O'Brien, A. "Football As The Fans Want It," Weekend, No. 46, 1968, p. 14-15.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "What's Ahead For Pro Football," Canadian Business, November, 1958, p. 26-32, 37.
- Paine, R.D. "English And American Football," Century, November, 1905, p. 99-116.
- Pool, Hamp. "My 20 Years In Big-Time Football," Liberty, September, 1958, p. 16-17, 53-54.
- Proudfoot, Dan. "You Get Stomped On A Lot In 19 Years," Canadian, September 16, 1967, p. 22-25.
- Reeve, Ted. "They're At It Again," Maclean's, September 15, 1931, p. 12, 42.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Sports," Liberty, August, 1954, p. 10.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "The Rugby Line-Up," Maclean's, October 15, 1930, p. 6, 81.
- Reynolds, Q. "Canada Kicks Off," Colliers, December 26, 1936, p. 15-.
- Ritchie, A. "That Forward Pass," Maclean's, November 1, 1931, p. 15, 65.
- Roberts, L. "Forward Pass Is Here," Canadian, September, 1931, p. 12-.
- Rodden, M.J. "Sports," Liberty, October, 1954, p. 11.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "It's A Scandal," Maclean's, November 1, 1936, p. 21, 39-40.
- Roxborough, H.H. "Is Worship Of Mammon Killing Amateur Sport," Maclean's, February 15, 1928, p. 6, 7, 46.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Cash Or Character," Maclean's, April 15, 1928, p. 18-19, 82-83.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Hamilton Sets The Pace," Maclean's, September 1, 1928, p. 17, 50-52.



- \_\_\_\_\_. "Rugger Or Rugby," Maclean's, November 15, 1929, p. 17, 65-68.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Money Talks," Maclean's, March 15, 1930, p. 17, 73-75.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Title Hunting," Maclean's, October 1, 1934, p. 10, 42-43.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Shamateurism," Maclean's, February 1, 1934, p. 13, 32.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "But The Twain Do Meet," Maclean's, December 1, 1933, p. 12, 39-40.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "What's Wrong With College Sport," Maclean's, January 1, 1933, p. 19, 42-43.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Eight Star Conacher," Maclean's, November 1, 1934, p. 8-.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Rugby Looks To The Box-Office," Maclean's, December 1, 1935, p. 17-.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "What Is Sport Worth To Canada," Maclean's, December 1, 1926.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Montreal Alouettes Are Flying High," National Home Monthly, October, 1946, p. 28-32.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Hayman Looks At Football's Stars," National Home Monthly, November, 1942, p. 22, 23.
- Shane, H. "Conacher The Versatile," Maclean's, September 1, 1932, p. 14, 34.
- Shaughnessy, F. "Coaching And Canadian Rugby," Maclean's, November 1, 1924, p. 24-25, 48-49.
- Simpson-Hayes, K. "Is The West Becoming Americanized?" Busy Man's Magazine, (Maclean's), October, 1909, p. 81-86.
- Smith, J.S. "Great Game: Canadian Rugby," Canadian, November, 1930, p. 18.
- Stewart, V.L. "Western Sport Arrives," Maclean's, July 15, 1931, p. 14, 48.
- Stukus, Annis. "Sports," Liberty, August, 1954, p. 10, 11.
- "The Grey Cup Hassle", Time, November 30, 1962, p. 1.
- Van Blaricom, G.B. "How The Governor-General Earns Salary," Busy Man's Magazine (Maclean's), September, 1909, p. 19-29.
- Walker, Bob. "Sports," Liberty, September, 1958, p. 10.





\_\_\_\_\_. "How Football's Toughest Stars Win The Grey Cup," Liberty, November, 1957, p. 18-19, 69-72.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Sports," Liberty, August, 1957, p. 11.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Can Tobin Rote Win The Grey Cup For The Argos," Liberty, October, 1960, p. 23, 59-60.

\_\_\_\_\_. The Ghosts And Goof-Ups That Win Grey Cups," Liberty, November, 1962, p. 18, 45-46.

"Will The Gamblers Turn The Grey Cup Black", Maclean's, December 15, 1951, p. 2.

Wise, S.F. "Canadian Football," Canadian Forum, November, 1950, p. 175.

#### NEWSPAPERS

Edmonton Bulletin, 1921.

Edmonton Journal, 1958-1967.

Financial Post, December 6, 1958.

Hamilton Herald, November 3, 1931.

Montreal Gazette, December 1908, 1962-67.

New York Times, December 12, 1909.

Ottawa Journal, 1909.

Regina Leader-Post, 1936-1940.

Toronto Telegram, October 22, 1934.

Toronto Globe (Later the Globe and Mail), December 15, 1902, 1909-1957, 1968.

Winnipeg Free Press, 1932-35.





# RULE BOOKS, CONSTITUTIONS AND MANUALS

Source: Football Hall of Fame

Spaldings Athletic Library Official Canadian Football Guide.	1911
Constitution of the Football section of the H.A.A.A.	1911
Official Rugby Rules, Canadian Rugby Union.	1915
Constitution and Official Rules, Canadian Rugby Union.	1921
Constitution and Official Rules, Canadian Rugby Union.	1922
Constitution and Official Rules, Canadian Rugby Union.	1923
Constitution and Official Rules, Canadian Rugby Union.	1924
Constitution and Official Rules, Canadian Rugby Union.	1925
Constitution and Official Rules, Canadian Intercollegiate Union.	1925
Constitution and Official Rules, Canadian Rugby Union.	1926
Constitution and Official Rules, Canadian Rugby Union.	1927
Constitution and Official Rules, Canadian Rugby Union.	1928
Constitution and Official Rules, Canadian Rugby Union.	1929
Constitution and Official Rules, Canadian Rugby Union.	1930
Constitution and Official Rules, Canadian Rugby Union.	1931
Constitution Of The Canadian Rugby Union.	1932
Constitution and Official Rules, Canadian Rugby Union.	1933
Official Rules of the Canadian Rugby Union.	1934
Constitution and Official Rules, Canadian Rugby Union.	1935
Constitution and Official Rules, Canadian Rugby Union.	1936
Constitution and Official Rules, Canadian Rugby Union.	1937



Official Rules Of The Canadian Rugby Union.	1938
Official Rules Of The Canadian Rugby Union.	1939
Official Rules Of The Canadian Rugby Union.	1941
Official Rules of The Canadian Rugby Union.	1943
Official Rules Of The Canadian Rugby Union.	1945
Official Rules Of The Canadian Rugby Union.	1946
Constitution Of The Canadian Rugby Union.	1949
Official Rules Of Canadian Rugby Football.	1956
Official Rules Of Canadian Rugby Football.	1957
Official Rules Of Canadian Rugby Football.	1958
Official Rules Of The Canadian Football League.	1959
Official Rules Of The Canadian Football League.	1960
Official Rules Of The Canadian Football League.	1961
Official Rules Of The Canadian Football League.	1962
Official Rules Of The Canadian Football League.	1963
Official Record Manual, Canadian Football League.	1966
Official Rules Of The Canadian Football League.	1967
Official Record Manual, Canadian Football League.	1968
Official Rules Of The Canadian Football League.	1968

#### OTHER SOURCES

Canadian Television Network coverage, Canadian Football League Meeting,  
February 8-9, 1968.

Roosevelt, T. As Quoted in the Crawley Film, "Commentary."











## Appendix A

## C.R.U. Regulations--1909

1. (1) The game is played by two teams of 14 men each with a ball 11 inches in length, 23 inches in circumference of width, and 13 3-4 ounces in weight (J.5-Spalding for Senior Matches and Spalding, Wilson or Love make for Intermediate and Junior Matches.) and on grounds 110 yards long by 65 yards wide, or as near these dimensions as practicable, with the boundaries distinctly marked. A goal is placed in the middle of each goal line, composed of two upright posts exceeding 20 feet in height, placed 18 feet 6 inches apart, and with a cross-bar placed 10 feet from the ground. Twenty-five yards behind each goal-line, and parallel thereto, is drawn a line called the dead ball line. If the natural boundary of the field be less than 25 yards behind the goal-line at either end, then such boundary constitutes the dead-ball line at that end.
- (2) A drop kick is made by dropping the ball from the hands and kicking it with the foot the instant it rises from the ground.
- (3) A place kick is made by kicking the ball after it has been placed on the ground.
- (4) A punt is made by letting the ball fall from the hands and kicking it with the foot before it touches the ground.
- (5) A flying kick is made by kicking the ball without touching it with the hands.
- (6) The kick-off is a place kick from the center of the grounds.
  - (a) The ball shall be kicked-off (1) at the commencement of the game by the side making that choice; (2) after a change of goals by the opposite side; after a goal or try has been scored, by the side losing the goal, or having the try scored against them.
  - (b) The ball shall be kicked more than 5 yards towards the opponents' goal. In case of infringement the ball shall be scrummaged by the side not offending, on the spot where it was kicked.
  - (c) The ball, unless it has touched an opponent, shall not go out of bounds. In case of infringement the ball shall be kicked off again if the Captain of the opposite side requires it, but if the ball go twice out of bounds without touching an opponent it shall be scrummaged by the side not offending, on the spot where it was kicked.



- (d) The opponents shall stand at least 10 yards in front of the ball until it is kicked. In case of infringement the ball shall be kicked-off again if the Captain of the opposite side requires it.
- (7) Kick-out is a drop kick from not more than 25 yards from the kicker's goal line and may move any distance towards the opponents' goal line. The penalty for failure to kick a drop kick shall be a scrimmage by the non-offending side on the 25 yard line.
  - (a) The ball shall be kicked out by the side in whose goal it has gone after a rouge or a safety-touch.
  - (b) The ball shall not go out of bounds unless it has touched an opponent. In case of infringement the ball shall be kicked out again, if the opposite side requires it; but if the ball go twice out of bounds from the kick-out without touching an opponent it shall be scrimmaged by the side not offending on the spot where it was last kicked.
  - (c) The opponents shall not interfere with the kicker within 25 yards of his own goal line. In case of infringement the side not offending shall have a free kick 35 yards from their own goal line.
- (8) When players of opposite sides have hold of the ball, the player who had first hold of and has not lost the ball is the Possessor.
- (9) The ball is In Touch if it or a player with it in his possession is on or across the touch-line; it is In Goal if it is on or across the goal line.
- (10) A pass is when the ball is knocked with the hand or the arm or thrown or handed by a player in any direction except toward the opponents' goal.
- (11) A Foul is when the ball is knocked forward with the hand or arm, or thrown or handed forward.
- (12) The ball is Dead: (a) Whenever the referee or umpire blows his whistle. (b) When the referee has declared that a down, try, goal, penalty goal, safety-touch, rouge or touch-in-goal has been made; (c) when a fair catch has been marked; (d) when it goes out of bounds; (e) when it is absolutely motionless on the ground in the possession of a player.
 

Note - Should the ball be absolutely motionless on the ground and not in possession of a player, it is still in play.

Note - Should the ball strike an official it is not regarded as dead, but play continues.
- (13) A Touch-Down is when a player, having possession of the ball, stops it so that it is dead.





- (14) (a) A Try is when:
- (1) The ball in possession of a player is declared dead by the Referee, any part of it being on, over, or behind the opponents' goal line.
  - (2) A player having crossed his opponents' goal line with the ball in his possession goes without losing it into touch-in-goal.
- (b) When a side has obtained a try, except in touch-in-goal, one of its players shall bring the ball straight up to the goal line and thence out into the grounds, not more in front of the goal than where it was touched down, or fairly held, and there place it for one of his side to kick.
- (c) When a side has obtained a try in touch-in-goal one of its players shall bring the ball out on the nearer touch-line, and then place it for one of his side to kick.
- (d) The kicker's side shall not be in front of the ball when it is kicked, and after a try has been awarded no player shall touch the ball until it is kicked, and in case of infringement a goal cannot be scored from such a try. The goal shall not be disallowed because of the player or kicker being off-side or in touch.
- (e) In case of a try at goal the opponents may charge from the goal line as soon as the ball is kicked or touches the ground. If an opponent charges or interferes when he has no right to do so, the kicker shall have his kick over again if he claims it.
- (15) (a) A Rouge is: when a player, getting possession of the ball in his own goal makes a touchdown, fair catch, or is fairly held there.
- (b) when the ball or player of either side having possession of it, is in touch-in-goal, except such player carries the ball over his opponents' goal line and makes a try.
- (c) when the ball or player with it in his possession touches or is on or across the dead-ball line.
- (d) when a foul is committed in goal.
- (16) A Safety-Touch is when a player kicks, passes, carries or hands the ball from the grounds over his own goal line and he or one of his side rouges it.
- (17) When a player having possession of the ball is tackled, the ball is fairly held: (a) When the player possessing it calls "held"; (b) when it is not moving.





- (18) (a) A Fair Catch consists in catching the ball on a forward pass or after it has been kicked by one of the opponents, and before it touches the ground, provided the player, while making the catch, makes a mark with his foot. It is not a fair catch if the ball, after a kick was touched by another of his side before the catch. Opponents who are off-side shall not come within three yards of nor interfere in any way with a player attempting to make a fair catch, or receiving a bounding ball. In case of a bounding ball, three yards must still be given. For an infringement of this rule, the opposite side shall have, at their option, a free kick where the off-side play occurred. If the off-side play occur in goal, the free kick shall be taken five yards in front of the goal line, if awarded, instead of a scrimmage.

Note: A mark cannot be made from a bounding ball.

- (b) If a side obtains a fair catch the ball must be put in play by a punt, drop kick, place kick, or scrimmage. A player who has been awarded and takes a free kick by way of a fair catch, shall himself kick or place the ball from any point directly behind the mark, but if another of his own side handle the ball before the kick is made, the ball must be put in play by a scrimmage. The ball may be kicked any distance towards the opponents' goal line or touch an opponent, and the kick must be taken from directly behind the mark. In case of infringement, the opposite side shall scrimmage the ball where the mark was made.
- (c) If the player who has marked the fair catch is thrown to the ground even by a player on-side, unless he has advanced beyond his mark, his side shall have the choice of putting the ball in play by a kick fifteen yards in advance of the spot where the foul occurred, or by a scrimmage on the spot where the ball was last played by an opponent. In no case can the scrimmage be given within the opponents' ten yard line.

#### MATCH

2. (1) Each side shall have a captain, who, before the match, shall toss for choice of goals or kick-off. Matches shall last for one hour actual play. The playing time shall be divided into four quarters, goals to be changed at the end of each quarter, and at the beginning of the second and fourth quarters the ball is to be put into play at an exactly corresponding point at the other end of the field and under the same conditions as if play had not been interrupted, and an intermission of ten minutes shall be allowed at the end of the second quarter. In case of a draw, if in the opinion of the referee it is practicable, twenty minutes extra time will be played, each side playing from the end from which it started the game, for ten minutes, and then ends being changed for ten minutes. No delay shall exceed five minutes.





- (2) Each side shall play an equal time from each goal. Time shall be deducted while the ball is being brought out for a try, kick-out, kick-off, for bringing the ball into play after going into touch, and for all delays.

- 3. (1) There shall be only one Referee and one Umpire for a match, who shall interpret the rules literally. The Referee shall enforce the penalties and rules; adjuticate upon dispute or cases unprovided for by the rules, control the Umpire, appoint two linemen, touch and goal judges, and control two timekeepers, and a penalty timekeeper, keep the score, and, at the conclusion of the match, declare the result.

NOTE: The timekeepers must notify the Referee of the time remaining to play, not more than five, nor less than two minutes before the end of each period, and must remember that time cannot be up until the ball is dead or out of play.

- (2) The Umpire shall have the power to stop the game by sounding a whistle for any infringement of the rules regarding off-side, charging, hacking or obstructing when the ball shall be considered dead, his decision shall be considered final in such cases. The Umpire, after he has sounded his whistle, must inform the Referee what rule was infringed, and the Referee shall inflict the penalty.
- (3) Touch Judges shall inform the Referee how and where the ball goes into touch, and when it is not brought in at right angles to where it went in. Goal Judges shall inform the Referee when the ball goes over the cross-bar and between the goal posts (or the posts produced) of the goal.
- (4) The ball shall be considered in play until the Referee or the Umpire (in those cases where the authority has been delegated to him under the above rules) stops the game, which either may do any time by sounding a whistle. The decision shall be final and not subject to any appeal. If any player disputes any decision of any of the officials, the Referee may rule him off for the remainder of the game, or for such a time as he may deem expedient, and no substitute shall be allowed.

- 4. When a ball is kicked (except by a punt, flying kick, kick-out, or kick-off) from the grounds without touching the ground, over the cross-bar and between the posts (or the posts produced), of the opponents' goal, it shall be a goal.
- 5. A Match shall be decided by a majority of points. A goal kicked from a try shall score 6 points (in which case the try shall not be scored), from a drop kick 3; from a drop or place kick by way of a free or penalty kick 2; a try shall score 5; a safety touch 2; and a rouge, 1. In the case of a penalty kick, the player who kicks the ball cannot score a goal counting 4 points.





6. (1) A scrimmage shall consist of three players, who must form one compact body; when the ball is fairly held within the grounds, one of the scrimmagers of the side to which it belongs shall bring it into play where it was held, by placing it dead in front of him; and one of the scrimmagers of the side in possession of the ball must then put it into motion in any direction with his foot.

NOTE: Ball is not to be considered to be in play until it is put in motion by the foot of one of the scrimmagers of the side in possession of the ball.

- (2) Opposing players must not come into contact with each other until the ball is placed on the ground, and no player shall touch the ball with his hand until it has been put in motion with the foot of one of the side in possession of the ball.
- (3) If any player being on the ground does not immediately get up, or if the ball is not put into play, or if any opponent interferes with the ball being put into play, or if during a scrimmage any player gets upon his knees, lies upon the ball or touches it with his hands before it is put in motion with the foot of one of the side in possession, the side offending shall be penalized.
- (4) a. If, in three consecutive downs, (unless the ball crosses the goal line) a team has neither advanced the ball ten yards nor taken it back twenty yards, it shall go to the opponents on the spot where it was declared dead at the end of the third down. Exception: A team may not retain possession of the ball by taking it back twenty yards a second time, unless the ball in the meantime has been in possession of the opponents.
- b. "Consecutive" means without going out of possession of the side holding it, except by having kicked the ball they have given their opponents fair and equal chance of gaining possession of it. No kick, however, provided it is not stopped by an opponent, is regarded as giving the opponents fair and equal chance of possession, unless the ball goes beyond the line of scrimmage.
- c. In measuring in downs, the forward point of the ball, and not its center, shall be taken as the determining point.
- d. When a distance penalty is given the ensuing down shall be counted the first down, unless this should result to the advantage of the offending side, when the down and distance to be gained shall remain the same as before the penalty.
- (5) If, after the scrimmage has taken its position, the player who is to scrimmage the ball should voluntarily make any motion as if to put it into play, whether he withholds it altogether or momentarily, it shall be considered one down.





- (6) At the moment when the ball is placed on the ground the players of both teams must be altogether behind the ball.

Exception: The head and shoulders of the man who places the ball on the ground may be ahead of the ball, but only while so doing.

- (7) For any infringement of any of the above scrum rules the penalty shall be loss of the ball against the team in possession, and the loss of ten yards or a free kick against the side not in possession of the ball.

- (8) After the ball is put into play, the players on the line of scrum of the side that has possession of the ball shall not lock their hands or arms, but only while on the line of scrum, may obstruct the opponents with the body only. For an infringement of this rule the offended side shall be given the ball. The player running with the ball may use his hands or arms.

- (9) No player shall hold with his hands or arms an opponent who has not the ball. For an infringement of this rule, the penalty shall be loss of ten yards or the loss of the ball to the side in possession.

- (10) There should be no unnecessary delay in putting the ball in play in scrum. For the first offence on each down the penalty shall be a loss of five yards, and of the second offence, the loss of the ball.

7. (1) When the ball goes into touch off a player, it shall belong to the opposite side; when it is carried into touch it shall belong to the side carrying it in.

- (2) If the ball goes out of bounds, whether it bounds or is blown back, a player of the side to which it belongs must bring it to the spot where the line was crossed, and then walk out with it at right angles to the sideline, any distance not less than five yards nor more than fifteen, and then have it scrummed, first declaring to the referee how far he intends walking. In case of infringement, the opposite side shall immediately bring it into play by a scrum.

8. (1) A player is off-side if the ball has been last touched by one of his own side behind him.

- (2) A player being off-side, is put on-side when the ball touches an opponent, or when one of his own side has run in front of him, either with the ball, or, having been the last player to have touched it when behind him.





- (3) If a player, being off-side, in the grounds, or in touch, touches the ball or comes within three yards of the place where an opponent touches the ball, or obstructs or annoys an opponent, the opposite side shall have, at their option, a free kick where the off-side play occurred or a scrum on the spot where the ball was last played by the offending side before such off-side play occurred, unless such spot was behind the goal line, in which case the free kick only shall be allowed. If the off-side play occurs within the goal, the free kick shall be taken five yards in front of the goal line.
9. (1) In case of a try at goal the opponents may charge from the goal line, and in case of a free kick, from in line with the mark, as soon as the ball is kicked, or touches the ground, or another player of the kicker's side.
  - (2) If an opponent charges or interferes when he has no rights to do so, the kicker shall have his kick over again if he claims it.
10. In case of a kick-out, kick-off, or free kick, the kicker's side shall not be in front of the ball when it is kicked, and in case of infringement the opposite side shall scrum the ball where the kick was made or allowed by the referee.
11. A player may pass the ball at any time. If a player makes a foul within the grounds, unless a fair catch has been made, the opposite side shall scrum the ball in the place where the foul was made.
12. (1) No player shall hold with his hands or arms, an opponent who has not the ball, under penalty of the loss of ten yards or the loss of the ball. No player shall obstruct or charge against an opponent except such opponent has the ball, or except such player is running with the ball, or except while on the line of scrum, or trip or scrag, or tackle an opponent above the shoulders or below the knees under penalty of a free kick from the place at which the illegal play occurred, or a scrum. No player shall play in a match wearing projecting metal or gutta percha on any part of his clothing.
  - (2) No player of the side in possession of the ball being ahead of the ball shall hinder or obstruct in any way an opponent running at the player carrying the ball. For an infringement of this rule the offended side shall be given the ball where the illegal play occurred.
  - (3) In case of an off-side play, hacking, obstructing, etc., taking place behind the goal line, the side not offending shall be given a free kick or a scrum ten yards out, or awarded one point (a rouge).





13. If a player makes an unfair or rough play, the Referee may rule him off for the remainder of the game or for such time as he may deem expedient, and no substitute may be allowed. In any case the Referee may report such player to the Union, and the Union may suspend such player.
14. Whenever the rules provide for a distance penalty, if the distance prescribed would carry the ball nearer the goal line than the ten yard line, then the ball shall be down on the ten yard line. If however, the foul is committed inside the ten yard line, half the distance to the goal line shall be given.
15. The side not offending may at any time decline the penalty awarded. Where there are two penalties for the same offence, the Captain of the side not offending must decide which penalty he will take.
16. There shall be no unnecessary delay of the game by either team. The penalty for infringement of this rule shall be the loss of the ball. No delay for injury to a player shall exceed two minutes. No delay is to exceed five minutes.
17. There shall be no coaching, either by substitutes or by any other person not participating in the game. In case of accident to a player one representative of the player's team may, if he has first obtained the consent of the Referee, come upon the field of play to attend to the injured player. The breach of any part of this rule shall be punished by a loss of fifteen yards to the side whose man infringes, the number of the down and distance to be gained for the first down remaining unchanged.
18. (a) If either team fail to appear on the grounds ten minutes after the time appointed, without proper cause shown to the Referee, the team present shall be considered to have won the toss, and the Referee shall fine the offenders not less than \$10.00 nor more than \$25.00.  
  
(b) In case of injury to players substitutes shall be allowed during any period of the game. No player once removed shall re-enter the game except with the consent of both captains.





## INTERPRETATION OF ONSIDE PASS

as agreed by Mr. John DeGruchy, Mr. Hamilton Cassels, and Mr. Wm. Faulds at Varsity Stadium October 26th, 1929.

BULLETIN RE ONSIDE OR MODIFIED FORM OF FORWARD PASS  
as issued by the Canadian Rugby Union

1. The Pass may be thrown by any player of the "side in possession".
2. The Pass may be thrown only once during any one scrum.
3. The Pass can NOT be thrown on the third down.
4. The Pass must be thrown from a point at least 5 yards behind the line of scrum.
5. The "Passer" need not necessarily be the first player of the side in possession to receive the ball from scrum.
6. The Pass must cross the line of scrum.
7. There are Six players of the "side in possession" who are eligible to receive the Pass. These are:
  - (a) the two OUTSIDE WINGS, who must be occupying the extreme flanks of the wing line.
  - (b) the three HALFBACKS and FLYING WING, who must be at least one yard behind the line of scrum at the time the ball is put into play.
8. A "COMPLETED" Onside Pass is when the ball, having crossed the line of scrum, is secured by one of the six eligible players mentioned in 7, within the prescribed area and without the ball having touched the ground or an ineligible player.

The "prescribed area" is bounded by the GOAL LINE of the side in possession; the TOUCH LINES; and the TWENTY-FIVE YARD LINE of the side not in possession.

While the Rules (Definition Sec. 14, Page 21) call for the ball to be "cleanly caught" this is interpreted to mean that the eligible player receiving the Pass must secure possession of the ball while it is still in the air though he may "bobble" the ball, before finally securing possession. If, however, an eligible player of the Passer's side DELIBERATELY knocks or bats the ball forward, the unoffending side shall have possession of the ball and first down where the offense occurred. (This latter is a new rule and only applies to this particular offense.)



9. If an eligible player of the Passer's side fails to "complete" the pass, the ball immediately becomes OFFSIDE to everyone of the Passer's side. This means that no players of the Passer's side is eligible to touch the ball, also THREE YARDS must be given to an opponent as in the case of a "kicked" ball. The Penalty for infringement of this rule is also the same as for OFFSIDE ON KICK i.e. first down for opponents 15 yards in advance of the spot where the offense occurred, etc. (as on page 32, Rule X, Sec. 6).

10. Should the ball be touched by a player of the side NOT making the Pass, then all players of the Passer's side are put ONSIDE and any player of the Passer's side may secure possession.

11. Any player of the side NOT making the Pass is eligible to receive the Pass and no restrictions are placed on how a player of this side may receive the ball. He may catch it on the fly or after it has touched the ground and he may carry it as far as possible.

12. If any player of the side NOT making the Pass "fumbles" the ball FORWARD, it may be recovered by any player of his side WHO IS ONSIDE i.e. he and the men of his own side who are behind him may recover the ball.

13. If, however, a player of the side NOT making the Pass appears to DELIBERATELY knock or bat the ball FORWARD the penalty shall be the same as for an ordinary Forward Pass i.e. the OFFENDING SIDE shall scrimmage the ball 10 yards back from the point where the offense occurred, and the ensuing down shall be "second" down, the yard sticks shall be placed as from the point where the offense occurred.

14. FIRST DOWN cannot be given for a "completed" Onside Pass unless the original distance of 10 yards has been gained. (This has reference to an error now appearing in the Rule Book, top of page 30, Rule VII, Sec. 8, the words "or by onside pass" should be deleted).

15. If an Onside Pass is caught simultaneously by a player of the Passer's side and by an opponent, the ball shall belong to the Passer's Side.

16. BLOCKING at the RECEIVING END of an Onside Pass is to be treated the same as blocking in the case of an Onside Kick.

17. A play from a fake Onside Pass is to be treated the same as from a fake Kick. This means that the side having possession of the ball may decide to RUN with the ball instead of Passing It. In which event the same general conditions will apply as in the case of a fake kick where the side decides to carry the ball instead of kicking it.





18. If the Pass CROSSES the opponents 25 yard line and is COMPLETED the Pass shall be declared ILLEGAL, the ball shall be brought back to the point where it was last scrimmaged and re-scrimmaged with the loss of one down. If, however, the Pass crosses the opponent's 25 yard line and possession is obtained by a player of the side NOT MAKING THE PASS, the ball may be advanced as far as possible, with the option of a scrimmage on the 25 yard line.

19. A Pass thrown into Touch WITHOUT having touched any player, is penalized by being brought back and rescrimmaged as in 18. The TOUCH LINE Rule shall apply in ALL OTHER CASES.

NOTE: Items 4, 6, 18 and 19 are the ONLY cases where the ball is brought back and rescrimmaged. THIS MEANS that the "Penalty" appearing on page 38 and page 43, Sec. 3 and commencing "If caught by an ineligible man . . . etc . . ." should be DELETED as it is inconsistent with the penalty and general conditions referred to in "IF THE PASS IS INCOMPLETE pages 38 and 43, Sec. 6.

20. Page 43, Sec. 6. Reference should be Rule X, Sec. 6 and the words "see note 1, page 28--Rule 5, Section 10" should be DELETED.

21. If a Pass is blocked by an opponent it shall be treated the same as in the case of a blocked kick (Rule VIII #30).

22. Players of the Passers side. "BLOCKING FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE PASSER" may block their opponents on the ground they occupy, but in so doing must not move out of the position occupied by them when the ball was put into play (same as Rule XII, Section 8, Page 36).

GENERAL REFERENCE: While "IF THE PASS IS INCOMPLETED" appearing on pages 38 and 43 states that the ball should be considered "in all respects" as if the ball had been kicked it must be borne in mind that while in a general way there is a similarity between a "kicked" ball and a ball that has been passed "forward" there is also a DIFFERENCE. This difference is that in the case of a Kicked ball, the Kicker can put his own men ONSIDE whereas in the case of an ONSIDE PASS that has not been touched by an opponent, NO ONE of the Passer's side is Onside nor can he be put Onside except by an opponent touching the ball.





## INTERPRETATIONS GOVERNING THE 1931

## CANADIAN RUGBY FOOTBALL RULES

## In the Case of the New

## FORWARD PASS RULE

I. General Definition--a COMPLETED Forward Pass is one that, HAVING CROSSED THE LINE OF SCRIMMAGE, is CAUGHT by an ELIGIBLE RECEIVER, before it has touched (a) the GROUND, (b) an INELIGIBLE player or (c) any obstruction on or back of the Goal Line. The Pass must not go OUT OF BOUNDS. If a Pass goes Out of Bounds, even though touched by an Opponent, the Touch rule does not apply and the Pass will be considered as INCOMPLETED and penalized as such.

GENERAL INTERPRETATION--No play can be considered as a FORWARD PASS unless the ball, after being scrimmaged is actually thrown towards the opponents' goal from a point at least five yards behind the line of scrimmage.

Any pass that is thrown towards the opponents' goal where there is no apparent intent to execute a FORWARD PASS play, shall be ruled as an "offside" pass, and penalized accordingly, even though the pass was thrown from a point at least five yards behind the line of scrimmage.

II. An INCOMPLETED Forward Pass is one that, in general, does not comply with the requirements of a "completed" Forward Pass.

III. PENALTY for INCOMPLETED Forward Pass.

The "general penalty" for an Incompleted Forward Pass is:--

Re-scrimmage with loss of one down, if on third down loss of ball at point of last scrimmage.

IV. EXCEPTIONS to GENERAL PENALTY for Incompleted Pass.

(a) If the ball touches or is touched by an ORIGINALLY INELIGIBLE player who has not become ELIGIBLE through an opponent having touched the ball.

Penalty--loss of ball at point of last scrimmage.

(b) If a Pass is Incompleted BEHIND PASSER'S Goal line.

Penalty--No score. Re-scrimmage with loss of one down, etc.  
(Delete Penalty as in Rule Book.)



If a pass is batted back across attacking team's goal line by a player of defending team--rule as INCOMPLETED PASS. Penalty--re-scrimmage with loss of down, etc.

(c) If two successive Incompleted Passes (1st and 2nd downs).

Penalty (for second Incompleted Pass)--Re-scrimmage with loss of 10 yards from point of last scrimmage.

(d) If Pass is INCOMPLETED behind the Defending team's Goal line.

Penalty--Loss of ball on opponent's 25-yard line. (Pass can only be completed by attacking team--see RESTRICTIONS.)

(e) If Pass is THROWN from a scrimmage within Defending team's 25-yard line and is INCOMPLETED.

Penalty--Loss of ball on opponent's 25 yard line. Pass can only be completed by attacking team--see RESTRICTIONS.)

Interpretation--In (e) the point where the ball is scrimmaged governs and not the point from where the pass was thrown.

V. FORWARD PASS may be THROWN and COMPLETED under the following conditions:

(a) It may be THROWN only by the team which put the ball in play FROM A SCRIMMAGE.

Interpretation--A FORWARD PASS play can only originate from a scrimmage. If otherwise thrown, rule and penalize as "offside pass." (Rule XIII).

(b) It may be THROWN on any "down".

(c) It may be THROWN by any ELIGIBLE player on the attacking team.

Interpretation--Any Eligible Receiver of the attacking team is eligible to throw a Forward Pass.

If thrown by ineligible player, rule and penalize as "off-side pass" (Rule XIII).

(d) It must be THROWN from a point at least five (5) yards yards behind the line of scrimmage.

Penalty--Re-scrimmage with loss of one down. If on 3rd down, loss of ball at point of last scrimmage.





(e) Only ONE Forward Pass may be made during or from each scrimmage (a subsequent Forward Pass shall be considered as an "off-side" Pass and penalized accordingly, as per Rule XIII).

(f) The Pass must cross the line of Scrimmage, even though "blocked" by an opponent, except where intercepted and possession secured by player of defending side.

Penalty--Re-scrimmage with loss of one down. If on 3rd down, loss of ball at point of last scrimmage.

Interpretation--If a FORWARD PASS DOES NOT CROSS THE LINE OF SCRIMMAGE, it shall be declared INCOMPLETE. The fact that the ball did not cross the line of scrimmage is what governs regardless of where the ball goes or why it did not pass the line of scrimmage, EXCEPT where possession of the ball is secured by the first player of the defending side who touches the ball before it touches the ground, in which case the defending side is entitled to possession and ground gained. If, however, the ball is knocked towards the attacking goal, the player shall be immediately called and the pass ruled as incomplete.

(g) The PASSER need not be the first man of the attacking side to receive the ball from scrimmage.

(h) The Pass can only be COMPLETED by being CAUGHT by an ELIGIBLE RECEIVER.

## VI. ELIGIBLE RECEIVERS OF PASS

(a) ALL OPPONENTS (Defending team).

(b) The PLAYER on EACH END of the Wing line and the PLAYERS who are at least one (1) yard back of the WING LINE of the PASSING TEAM. These players are eligible, unless and until one of them touches the ball when HE only of his side remains eligible.

Interpretation--This applies where the ball is touched after having crossed the line of scrimmage and provided the players do not go out of bounds.

If, however, an Opponent touches the ball, ALL players become eligible.

Interpretation--As soon as an opponent touches the ball (it having crossed the line of scrimmage) all of the originally ineligible men on the attacking side also become ELIGIBLE RECEIVERS. It does not mean, however, that if a player of the defending side knocks or bats the ball towards his opponent's goal, all players of his side may secure possession without penalty. Such a play shall be treated in the same way as any ordinary "intercepted pass" that is knocked forward, and shall be ruled on in accordance with last sentence of NOTE, bottom of page 37. Rule XIII, and the penalty shall be--





Scrimmage by the offending side 10 yards back from the point where the offence occurred and the ensuing down shall be second down, and the yard sticks shall be placed as from the point where the offence occurred.

#### VII. POSITION OF PLAYERS OF PASSER'S TEAM ON LINE OF SCRIMMAGE.

In a scrimmage from which a FORWARD PASS is thrown, the attacking team must have AT LEAST SEVEN (7) players within one (1) yard of the line of Scrimmage, in a single line and not advancing towards their opponents' goal line, at the instant the ball is put into play.

Penalty--Re-scrimmage with loss of one down. If on 3rd down, loss of ball at point of last scrimmage.

"On any scrimmage from which a forward pass is thrown, no player of the attacking side shall, before the ball is snapped, move in such a way as to cause confusion as to whether or not such player is eligible to receive the pass. This has particular reference to the shifting of players on and off the wing line of changing positions on wing line.

Penalty--Loss of one down--3rd down, loss of ball.

#### VIII. POSSESSION OF BALL.

(a) When a team makes a Forward Pass, the ball is considered to be in its possession until the pass is completed or until and unless the pass has been declared INCOMPLETE.

(b) If a pass is caught simultaneously by ELIGIBLE players of the OPPOSING TEAMS, the ball shall belong to the PASSER'S team.

(c) If two ELIGIBLE players of the same team catch the pass simultaneously, the PASS shall be considered as INCOMPLETE.

(Note change in (c) from "COMPLETE" to INCOMPLETE.)

#### IX. INTENTIONAL GROUNDING OF BALL BY PASSER.

A Pass may not be intentionally "grounded" by the Passer to prevent loss of yardage.

Penalty--Loss of one down and 10 yards from point of last scrimmage. If on 3rd down, loss of ball at point of last scrimmage.

X. Delete Section X., page 42, in Rule Book and substitute therefor:

Time will be deducted while the ball is being brought back from an incompleated pass.



## XI. INTERFERENCE, BLOCKING, OBSTRUCTING, ETC.

It is not permissible to Interfere with, or Block or Obstruct, in any way, any player of either team who is ELIGIBLE to catch the Pass, except as follows:

(1) Players of the Defending side may block only within one (1) yard of the line of scrimmage.

Penalty--Ball goes to Attacking side as first down where the offense occurred. In the case of two fouls (both by defending side) possession shall be given at the point of offence nearest to the offending team's goal-line. (Change in Penalty.)

If the Defending team commits illegal interference behind its own goal-line.

Penalty--Ball to opponents as first down on defending team's 10-yard line. (New Penalty.)

(2) Players of the attacking side who are within one (1) yard of the line of scrimmage and in a single line when the ball is put into play may create interference 3 yards in advance of the line of scrimmage as in Rule XI., Sec. 3.

Penalty--Loss of one down and 10 yards. If on the 3rd down, loss of ball.

(3) "Blocking" by the attacking side behind the line of scrimmage for the protection of the PASSER is permitted as for a Kick or Fake Kick. (Rule XII., Secs. 6 and 7.)

Interpretation--The passer in the case of a Forward Pass, will be entitled to the same protection as the kicker in the case of a kick. This allows moving protection behind the line of scrimmage, but the Pass must be thrown, otherwise such protection is illegal. In the case of a fake pass, the protection must be stationry, as in the case of a fake kick.

(4) When two or more ELIGIBLE players simultaneously come in contact when making a bona fide effort to secure possession of the ball, it shall not be considered as Interference.

## XII. RESTRICTIONS WITHIN CERTAIN AREAS.

1. If a Forward Pass is Incompleted behind the Defending Team's goal line.

or

If a Forward Pass, thrown from a scrimmage within the Defending Team's 25-yard line, is Incompleted, the Defending Team shall scrimmage the ball, as first down, on its 25-yard line.





Interpretation--The intention is that a pass thrown over the defending team's goal line or thrown from a scrimmage which takes place within the defending team's 25-yard line, CAN ONLY BE COMPLETED BY A PLAYER OF THE PASSING SIDE. Failure by the attacking side to complete such a pass results in a scrimmage for the defending side, as first down, on their 25-yard line.

Note--If a player of the defending team touches the ball on a Forward Pass, which is subsequently COMPLETED by the ATTACKING team, within the RESTRICTED AREA, it has no more effect than if it occurred on a Forward Pass outside this area.

2. Delete this section in Rule Book, page 43.

No score can be made by a pass that may become incomplete behind the Passer's goal line.

#### NOTE

1. First down cannot be given for a completed Forward Pass unless the original ten (10) yards have been gained.

2. In the case of a BLOCKED or PARTIALLY BLOCKED Pass, the play is either COMPLETED or INCOMPLETED, and if INCOMPLETED, it shall be penalized as such and not as in the case of a blocked kick.

3. The place where a FORWARD PASS becomes INCOMPLETE does not in any way affect the general (or other) penalty rule as in regard to where the ball is again put into play EXCEPT in the case of a Pass that becomes Incomplete behind the Defending team's goal line (i.e., not caught by an ineligible receiver of the attacking side). In this case, only does the point of incompletion affect the penalty awarded. For the purpose of determining the point of incompletion in this particular case, a Forward Pass over the Defending Team's goal line is considered Incomplete where the ball touches the ground, an ineligible player, goes out of bounds or is caught behind the goal line by a player of the Defending team.

4. If a player jumping to catch a Forward Pass, secures possession, but touches or is outside the touch line when he lands, the Pass shall be ruled as incomplete.





# THIS JOURNAL

## APPENDIX B

*[Handwritten signature]*



P. D. ROSS, PRESIDENT AND MANAGING DIRECTOR

C. H. ROBERTSON, SECRETARY-TREASURER

THE  
EVENING  
JOURNAL.  
Daily.

## THE JOURNAL

THE  
OTTAWA  
VALLEY  
JOURNAL.  
Semi-Weekly.

THE JOURNAL PRINTING CO., LIMITED.

OTTAWA, ONT.

March 29, 1909

Sir John Hanbury-Williams,  
City.

Dear Sir John:

I beg to apologize for not having earlier dealt with the matter which His Excellency was kind enough to refer to me, namely, conditions for a challenge cup for the Rugby Football Champions <sup>hips</sup> of Canada.

His Excellency suggests that conditions might be submitted by myself and such others as I might choose. May I venture to suggest that instead, His Excellency would name the trustees of the cup, and authorize them to draw up conditions (subject only to His Excellency's desire that the cup must remain always under purely amateur conditions?). This was the course followed with the Stanley and Minto cups, and it would be well I think to let the trustees who are to have the handling of the cup feel that the entire responsibility is theirs, rather than having a set of conditions established to be followed by them, although drawn up by myself, or others, who might not be trustees.

Perhaps I might help by suggesting some names for trustees. Three first-class men would be H. B. McGiverin, H.P., Ottawa, Percival Molson, National Trust Company, Montreal, and Dr. Bruce Macdonald, Toronto. Indeed I do not think three better or more appropriate men could be got. If these or others were appointed, I would be very glad to give them assistance in drawing up rules.

I am Yours sincerely,

*P. D. Ross*





P. D. ROSS, PRESIDENT AND MANAGING DIRECTOR

C. N. ROBERTSON, SEC. TREAS. AND BUSINESS MGR.

THE  
EVENING  
JOURNAL,  
Daily.

## THE JOURNAL

THE  
OTTAWA  
VALLEY  
JOURNAL,  
Semi-Weekly.

THE JOURNAL PRINTING CO., LIMITED.

OTTAWA, ONT.

*Private*  
My dear Hauberg

Re enclosed, it might occur  
to Mr. Ea. to suggest me as a trustee.  
I could not accept. - Am doing  
more than my duty, as a trustee  
of the Stanley and McIntosh cups.

Yours

P. D. R.





1676

OTTAWA, 2nd April 1909.

My dear Macdonald,

His Excellency proposes to give a Challenge Cup for the Rugby Football Championship of Canada.

In order to do this he is anxious to appoint certain Trustees and to invite them to draw up the necessary rules, including the special one that the Cup must remain always under purely amateur conditions.

Lord Grey would be glad if you could find it convenient to be one of the Trustees for the Cup, and I am writing also to Mr. H. B. McGiverin, M.P., and to Mr. Percival Molson, to ask them if they will accept a similar office.

I hope you may be able to send me a favourable answer.

Yours sincerely,

The Reverend

D. B. Macdonald,  
TORONTO.

Similar letter to H.B. McGiverin and  
to Percival Molson, Montreal.



NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, LIMITED  
MONTREAL.

P. O. Box 859,

3rd April, 1909.

Dear Sir Hanbury-Williams:-

In answer to your letter of the 2nd inst. I would inform you that I appreciate very much the honour which has been done me in asking me to act as one of the Trustees for the challenge cup which Lord Grey proposes to give for the Rugby Football Championship of Canada, and I would be very pleased to act in conjunction with Dr. Bruce Macdonald and Mr. H. M. McGiverin.

I am sure that the football public in general will much appreciate his Excellency's generosity in donating the cup which will tend largely to increase the interest in our popular Autumn game.

Yours sincerely,

*Percival Molson.*

Lieut. Col. Sir J. Hanbury-Williams, C.V.O., C.M.C.,

Governor-General's Office,

O T T A W A.





Hotel Dennis

Atlantic City, N.J.

Walter J. Rugby.

April 8<sup>th</sup> 1909

My dear Sir John

Your letter of the 22nd  
was duly forwarded to me  
here where I am having  
a few days change with  
my family & expect to  
return to Ottawa by the 14<sup>th</sup>

Would you kindly convey  
to His Excellency my sincere  
thanks for the honour of selecting  
me for one of the Trustees  
for The Rugby Football Cup





Hotel Dennis

Atlantic City, N.J.

Walter J. Rugby.

2.

190

he is so kindly presenting  
for the Football Championship  
that I shall be pleased  
to assist in any  
way in carrying out  
his wishes in the matter  
With kindest regards, my  
dear Sir John

Believe me

Yours faithfully

H. B. F. Green



April 16th. 1909.

My dear Sir John:-

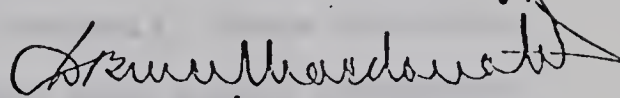
On my return to the City after an absence ~~for~~ two weeks, I find on my desk your letter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> instant. Its receipt has already been acknowledged by my Secretary and my absence explained.

Will you please inform His Excellency that I appreciate very much his selection of myself as one of the Trustees for his Challenge Cup. If he thinks I am fit to be entrusted with the duty, I will respond to the call and do what I can to assist

in carrying out his views.

With kind regards,

Yours faithfully,



Sir J. Hanbury-Williams,

Government House,

Ottawa, Ontario.





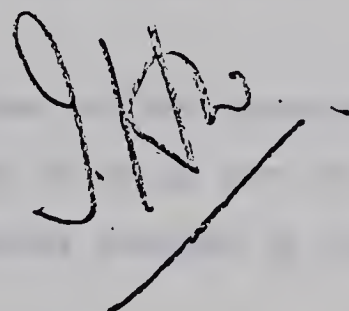
OTTAWA, 3rd May 1909.

My dear McGiverin,

With reference to His Excellency's Amateur Challenge Cup for Rugby Football, Bruce Macdonald, Toronto and Molson, Montreal, have both kindly consented to act with yourself as the Trustees.

Might I ask you to be so kind as to take the matter up with your colleagues at the earliest possible date, arranging conditions, etc., so that an announcement may be made in the Press?

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. H. Macdonald', with a long horizontal stroke extending from the bottom of the signature.

H. B. McGiverin, Esq., M.P.,

House of Commons,

Ottawa.







## House of Commons

*Ottawa*, May 29th, 1909

Sir John Hanbury Williams,  
Governor-General's Office,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir John;

I send you two copies of Conditions, etc., for the Challenge Cup which His Excellency has so kindly donated for amateur Rugby Football in Canada.

I have conferred with the Trustees and that have practically agreed on the following Rules, etc., which have been drawn up almost identically with the "Minto Cup". If this meets with the approval of His Excellency, you might let me know, or take what steps you think right to publish the same. The Rules are of course subject to any change which the Trustees may think fit, on the lines laid down.

Our idea is to give the Cup to the winner of the Canadian Rugby Union this year, and then challenges can be sent in to us for the Cup. I was thinking that perhaps the enclosed is rather lengthy to put into the Newspapers, but it might be condensed.

I am leaving for England on Wednesday the 2nd of June, and will be away in Toronto, on Tuesday. I hope this will meet with His Excellency's approval.

With kindest regards, Yours faithfully,

*H.B. Williams*



## TELEGRAM.

(COPY.)

31/5/9  
 H. McEwen M.A.  
 OTTAWA

Many thanks ~~to~~ letter  
 rules approved please publish  
 right away H. Ambrose







*Rugby Football  
Amateur Championship*

## House of Commons

OTTAWA.

Nov. 5th, 1909.

Arthur F. Sladen, Esq.,  
182 Daly Ave.,  
City.

My dear Sladen;

Personal.

Last Spring His Excellency was kind enough to present a Cup for the Amateur Championship of Canada. The Trustees appointed have decided to give the Cup in the first instance to the winners of the Canadian Championship under the Canadian Union, and as this will be played in about two weeks, you might respectfully suggest to His Excellency that the Cup should be in the hands of the Trustees as soon as possible.

I am writing you personally in this matter, as perhaps His Excellency has already ordered the Cup.

Yours faithfully,

*H. A. G. G. G.*





*Ans 22 Jan. 10  
will sent directly scratch  
is removed.*



## House of Commons

OTTAWA      Jany. 20th, 1910.

A. F. Sladen, Esq.,  
A.D.C., Government House,  
Ottawa.

My dear Sladen;

I am asked by the other two Trustees what has become of the Grey Cup, so please let me know when we can expect it.

With kindest regards,

Yours faithfully,

*H. McPherson*



*Personal*



# House of Commons

OTTAWA Jany. 24th, 1910.

Arthur Guise, Esq.,  
Government House,  
Ottawa.

My dear "Guisey";

I have your two letters re Football Cup and Johnson for the Dominion Police.

In regard to the former, I will be very glad if you will let me know when the Cup is ready, as the Local newspapers want to get a photograph of it; and then I will have it sent up to Rev. Bruce MacDonald, the Toronto <sup>Justice</sup> ~~President~~, to present to Toronto 'Varsity, the winners of the Cup.

Please excuse this typewritten letter, but for the next week, I shall be driven to death, but after that I hope to see something of you.

With kindest regards,

Yours faithfully,

*A. B. M. F. J. J. J.*





REV. D. BRUCE MACDONALD, M.A., LL.D.

ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE  
TORONTO.

Feb. 7th. 1910.

Arthur Guiso,  
Controller,

Government House, Ottawa.

Dear Sir:-

His Excellency's Cup, which he has been good enough to donate as emblematic of the Dominion Rugby Football Championship, was delivered to me on Friday by Hy. Birks & Sons. It is a very handsome Cup. I notice that there is no inscription whatever on it. This may be His Excellency's wish, and on the other hand, it may be an oversight on the part of the Manufacturers. Before handing it over to the University of Toronto Athletic Association, might I ask you to be kind enough to inform me as to His Excellency's wishes in the matter of an inscription.

Yours faithfully,

*Arthur Guiso*

24. Feb. 1910  
Inscription must be  
Grey Cup  
Dominion Amateur Rugby Football  
on shield as above  
Tomb  
Toronto A.A.  
1909  
of approval please have  
done + send full





ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE  
TORONTO.

Feb. 25th. 1910.

Arthur Guise, Esq.,

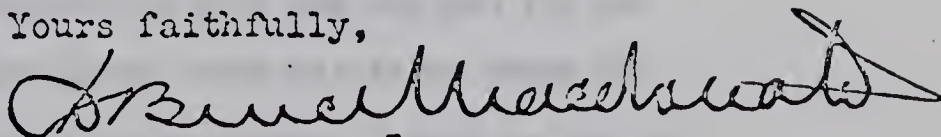
Government House,

Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of the 24th instant is to hand to-day. Not having heard from you in the matter of the Grey Cup, Mr. McGiverin and myself have been in correspondence and took for granted that His Excellency would prefer to have an inscription on <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ cup before the <sup>cup</sup> ~~cup~~ was handed over. This I ordered a few days ago, which I hope will be satisfactory to you. As soon as the engraving is completed, the cup will be photographed, after which I will turn it over to the University of Toronto.

Yours faithfully,





ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE  
TORONTO.

March 22nd. 1910.

H. B. McGiverin, Esq.,

House of Commons,

Ottawa, Ontario.

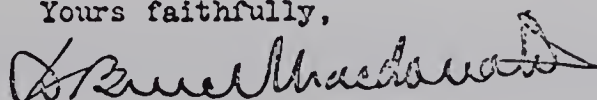
My dear Mr. McGiverin:-

Referring to your letter of Feb. 17th, which I acknowledged on the 19th, I have now to report that it is only to-day that I have been able to secure from the Photographer, copies of the photograph of the Grey Cup. These I am forwarding to you by this mail, under separate cover. I have had the cup properly engraved and handed over to Varsity. The engraving on the cup itself is as follows:- "Presented by His Excellency, Earl Grey, for the Amateur Rugby Football Championship of Canada." The work has been very well done and the appearance of the Cup is considerably improved thereby. The base sent out from the Old Country was quite inadequate, being too small. The cup did not look well on it and it would have been quite impossible for the winning team to have affixed shields recording their names. The new base I have had attached to the cup so that they will not become readily separated and the cup will not be in danger of being knocked off and thus injured.

Enclosed you will find the bill for the engraving &c. You might please refer this to Mr. Guise and if he objects to paying it for any reason, I shall be glad to share the cost with you.

With kind regards,

Yours faithfully,







*Personal*



House of Commons

OTTAWA

April 4th, 1910.

Arthur Guise, Esq.,

Government House,

Ottawa.

My dear Guise;

I am sending you an account and letter from Rev. Bruce MacDonald, re His Excellency's Cup. You might let me know confidentially what you think of this account, and if there is the slightest disposition on the part of His Excellency <sup>about it</sup> we will pay the account ourselves and charge it up against the future expenses in the running of the Cup.

Yours faithfully,

*H. M. Fisher*

Enclos.





## OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE RE:

## THE GREY CUP

His Excellency, the Governor General has decided to offer a perpetual Challenge Cup for competition in Rugby Football, to be emblematic, if possible, of the amateur championship of the Dominion.

His Excellency names three Trustees, namely Mr. H.B. McGiverin, M.P., of Ottawa, Rev. Bruce McDonald of Toronto, and Mr. Percival Molson of Montreal.

Regarding the Trustees, the Governor-General's wish is that they shall control the contests for the Cup, and that their decisions as to the Cup and its custody shall be absolute. Should any Trustee die or otherwise drop out, a successor shall be appointed by the Governor-General for the time being.

At the request of Lord Grey, The Trustees have made suggestions regarding the disposal of the Cup and contests for it, which His Excellency has approved as follows with the reservation that the regulations must be considered as subject at any time to the will of the Trustees, inasmuch as circumstances are always liable to arise which may render a departure from any or all rules desirable.

- 
1. The Club which holds the cup shall defend it on behalf of its own Union, against any challenge from any other amateur Union or representative Amateur Club.
  2. Challenges shall be addressed to the Trustees, and shall be given preference in the order received unless special circumstances intervene.
  3. The Cup shall be open to challenge by only the leading or champion Amateur Clubs of any recognized Union or Association, unless the Trustees consider some special exception desirable.
  4. In any Union or Association in which the Cup is held, the Cup shall not be open to challenge by other Clubs of the same Union inasmuch as each Union has its own Championship series; but at the end of the Union's season, the possession of the Cup if still in that Union, shall belong to the new Champion Club of the Union without any special Match; and that Club shall have the defence of it.
  5. Holders of the Cup may accept challenges upon whatever conditions of play they choose to agree with a challenging Club, but if no such agreement is reached, the Trustees will name the Rules of play.
  6. If the Clubs fail to agree on any condition or conditions, the trustees will proceed to umpire on the basis of the following clauses:



(a) A Challenge for the Cup may be decided by a single match or by the best two matches out of three, or by most points in two matches, as the competing Clubs themselves may agree, or as in default of Agreement the Trustees may decide.

(b) Matches shall be played on the grounds of the holders of the Cup, unless the Trustees upon appeal from the challengers decide differently.

(c) Gate receipts shall be equally divided after legitimate match expenses are paid but no charge shall be made for grounds, if the match be played upon the ground of either competing Club. No travelling expenses allowed.

(d) Officials must be agreed on by competing Clubs, at least a week before date of Match, otherwise the trustees may appoint them. The expense, if any, shall be equally shared by the competing clubs.

7. A Club receiving the Cup shall give an acknowledgement to the Trustee, stating that they hold it subject to the absolute decision of the Trustees in all respects.

8. Each Club winning the Cup may engrave its name on an attached Shield, with the date of Championship.





1350: *Handwritten text, possibly a date or reference number.*

*Handwritten text, possibly a signature or name.*

APPENDIX C

*Handwritten text, possibly a signature or name.*





## CANADIAN RUGBY UNION

1950

## Player's Certificate

No. 184632Name W.G. HuntleyAddress 308 Sackville St., Toronto, Ont.Club Hamilton Tiger-Cat Football Club Inc. Union C.R.U.Played Season 1948 with Hamilton Tigers ClubPlayed Season 1949 with Hamilton Tigers ClubSignature *[Signature]**[Signature]*

Club Secretary

Date Signed August 9th 1950Date Registered Aug 10 19 50*[Signature]*  
Secretary C.R.U.

(TO BE RETAINED BY CLUB)



# EDMONTON

## ESKIMO RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

203 Kreuze Building

Edmonton, Alberta

### C O N T R A C T

HON. PRESIDENT:  
HON. E. C. MANNING

HON. VICE-PRESIDENTS:  
MR. JUSTICE H. J. MACDONALD  
MAYOR H. D. AINLAY

PRESIDENT:  
R. M. MONTAGUE

VICE-PRESIDENTS:  
H. S. A. JOHNSON  
H. SINGER  
W. H. SPRAGUE

SECRETARY:  
J. H. SHOCTOR

TREASURER:  
K. G. MONTGOMERY

DIRECTORS:  
W. BLAKE  
R. A. BRADBURN  
P. DAIGLE  
E. M. DUGGAN  
F. W. FORSTER  
M. I. LIEBERMAN  
HON. L. MAYNARD  
B. MARQUARDT  
W. A. MCKENZIE

THIS CONTRACT made in duplicate this 6 day  
of SEPTEMBER, A. D. 1949.

BETWEEN:

EDMONTON ESKIMO RUGBY  
FOOTBALL CLUB, a body  
corporate with its head  
office in the City of  
Edmonton in the Province  
of Alberta, (hereinafter  
called the "Club"),

OF THE FIRST PART

- and -

STEPHEN MENARRY  
OF THE CITY OF EDMONTON  
IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA  
OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA  
(hereinafter called the  
"Player"),

OF THE SECOND PART

NOW THEREFORE THIS CONTRACT WITNESSETH:

That the Parties hereto mutually covenant  
and agree as follows:

1. The Player agrees to play football with  
the Edmonton Eskimo Rugby Football Club during the  
season of 1949 under the following terms: *AND FOOTBALL CLUB* *LA*  
*8m.*

Salary of \$300.00 *PLUS TIME LOST FROM WORK* *LA*  
per season, to be *8m.*  
paid the Player on a MONTHLY basis, beginning  
with commencement of the playing season and to the  
end of the Western Interprovincial Football Union  
Schedule, plus all exhibition and play-off games, in  
which the Club may participate.

2. The Player agrees that for the purpose of  
avoiding injuries and to remain in physical condition  
to perform the services he has contracted with the  
Club to perform, while under contract, he will not  
play football or engage in any other sporting activity  
otherwise than with the Club.





# EDMONTON

## ESKIMO RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

203 Kresge Building

Edmonton, Alberta

- 2 -

## HON. PRESIDENT:

HON. E. C. MANNING

## HON. VICE-PRESIDENTS:

MR. JUSTICE H. J. MACDONALD  
MAYOR H. D. AINLAY

## PRESIDENT:

R. M. MONTAGUE

## VICE-PRESIDENTS:

H. S. A. JOHNSON  
H. SINGER  
W. H. SPRAGUE

## SECRETARY:

J. H. SHOOTER

## TREASURER:

K. G. MONTGOMERY

## DIRECTORS:

W. BLAKE  
R. A. BRADBURN  
P. DAIGLE  
E. M. DUGGAN  
F. W. FORSTER  
M. I. LIEBERMAN  
HON. L. MAYNARD  
B. MARQUARDT  
W. A. MCKENZIE

3. The Player must keep himself in first class physical condition, must at all times abide by the training and other rules laid down by the Club, and conform his personal conduct to standards of good citizenship and good sportsmanship.

4. The Player agrees to abide by all the rules and regulations of the Canadian Rugby Union and the Western Interprovincial Football Union in addition to Club regulations.

5. Failure to attend workouts or games without first notifying the Coach or Manager of the Club in advance, and failure to abide by all rules and regulations laid down by the Club and maintain satisfactory playing standards, will result in the Player being subject to a penalty set by the Club Coach or Manager.

6. The Player will be furnished with playing equipment by the Club, and upon termination of the playing season or release by the Club, the Player agrees to surrender all equipment to the Club, otherwise adequate deduction from the Player's salary will be made for the value of the equipment.

7. The Club shall at all times have complete control of the services which the Player will render under the specifications of this Contract.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Parties hereto have executed this Contract this 5 day of SEPT, A. D. 1949.

SIGNED, SEALED and DELIVERED  
in the presence of:

*B. G. Scambler*

EDMONTON ESKIMO RUGBY  
FOOTBALL CLUB:

*A. Anderson*  
*S. Mendryk*





# EDMONTON

## ESKIMO RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

203 Kresge Building

Edmonton, Alberta

## HON. PRESIDENT

HON. E. C. MANNING

## HON. VICE-PRESIDENTS:

MR. JUSTICE H. J. MACDONALD

MAYOR H. D. AINLAY

## PRESIDENT:

R. M. MONTAGUE

## VICE-PRESIDENTS:

H. S. A. JOHNSON

H. SINGER

W. H. SPRAGUE

## SECRETARY:

J. H. SHOCTOR

## TREASURER:

K. G. MONTGOMERY

## DIRECTORS:

W. BLAKE

R. A. BRADBURN

P. DAIGLE

E. M. DUGGAN

F. W. FORSTER

M. I. LIEBERMAN

HON. L. MAYNARD

B. MARQUARDT

W. A. MCKENZIE

In the contract between

EDMONTON ESKIMO RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

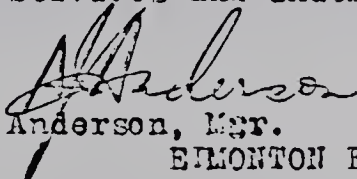
and

STEPHEN MENDRYK

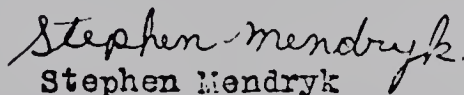
The following is shown as an amendment and forms  
a part thereto:

It is mutually agreed that a bonus of up to  
(\$100.00), One Hundred Dollars may be earned  
by the player based on recommendations made by  
the coach to the Manager and Player's Committee  
in respect to playing ability, deportment and  
general efficiency as a rugby football player.

It is also understood that the player is protected  
for injury incurred in playing or proceeding to and  
from games, to the full extent of medical and  
hospital services and indemnity.

  
A.J. Anderson, Mgr.

EDMONTON ESKIMO RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

  
Stephen Mendryk

Witness





## PLAYERS CONTRACT

BETWEEN

HAMILTON TIGER-CAT FOOTBALL CLUB INC., a Company incorporated under the Laws of the Province of Ontario, having its Head Office at the City of Hamilton, in the said Province of Ontario, hereinafter called the Club,

OF THE FIRST PART

AND SCOTT BEASLEY, of the City of Pontiac, in the State of Michigan,  
hereinafter called the Player,

OF THE SECOND PART.

WHEREAS the Club is a member of the Canadian Rugby Union and is operating a football team within the Association known as the Inter-Provincial Rugby Football Union, which two organizations are hereinafter referred to as the Unions.

AND WHEREAS the Player is desirous of playing football for the said Club which is desirous of having him do so on the terms and conditions hereinafter set out.

WITNESSETH that in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements hereinafter contained the parties hereto mutually agree as follows:

1. The term of this contract shall be from the fifteenth day of July in one year, or the opening of the football training and practice sessions of the said Club, whichever date shall be earlier, until the first day of December of the same year, or the conclusion of the final game of the Club, including exhibition, league playoff games, Eastern Canada final games and Dominion final games, whichever date shall be later, subject however to the rights of prior termination as specified herein.

2. The Player agrees that during the term of this contract he will play football and will engage in activities related to football only for the Club as directed by the Club according to the Constitution, By-laws, rules and regulations of the Unions and of the Club, and the Club, subject to the provisions hereof, agrees during such period to employ the Player as a skilled football player.

3. The Player agrees that during the term of his contract he will report promptly for the Club's training session, render his services during the training season and at the Club's direction will participate in all practice sessions and in all league and other football games scheduled by the Club, including all exhibition, league playoff games and final games.

4. For the Player's services as a skilled football player during the term of this contract and for his agreement not to play football or engage in activities relating to football for any other person, team, club, firm, corporation or institution during the term of this contract and for the other undertakings of the Player herein, the Club promises to pay the Player, subject to the terms hereinafter provided, the sum of **Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars - - - (\$ 250.00)** for each football game, except exhibition games, participated in by the Player for the Club during the term of this contract, such payment to be made at a time mutually agreed upon between the parties hereto within one week following each such game.

~~5. The Player agrees that he is not to receive any remuneration from the Club for his participation in any exhibition games and that should he be injured in the performance of his duties in any regular league game or in any practice session after the date of the first regular league game to such an extent that in the opinion of the Club Physician the Player is unable to continue or resume his duties, then the Club shall pay the Player one half of the amount stated in the preceding paragraph for each regular league or playoff game remaining to be played by the team, but in no event shall the Player receive such remuneration for a greater number than three such games. It is distinctly understood by the Player that the opinion of the Club Physician regarding the Player's ability to perform his duties shall be final and conclusive and that the preceding provisions of this paragraph do not apply in the event of an injury sustained by a Player in an exhibition game or while not in the performance of his duties to the Club.~~

6. Without admitting any liability for so doing, the Club may pay up to and including the sum of One Thousand Dollars for any medical or hospital expenses incurred by any Player as a result of an injury sustained by him in the performance of his duties to the Club, and the Player hereby releases the Club from all claims, demands and causes of action which he may hereafter have for any medical and/or hospital expenses incurred as a result of any such injury sustained by him.

7. The Player agrees at all times to comply with and be bound by all the provisions of the Constitution, By-laws, rules and regulations of the Unions and of the Club, all of which are hereby made a part of this contract. If the Player fails to comply with said Constitution, By-laws, rules and regulations of the Unions or of the Club, the Club shall have the right to terminate this contract or to take such other action as may be specified in the said Constitution, By-laws, rules and regulations. The Player agrees to submit himself to the discipline of the Unions and of the Club for any violation of such Constitution.





By-laws, rules and regulations, subject, however, to any right to a hearing which may be provided for in the Constitution, By-laws, rules and regulations of the Unions or the Club. All matters in dispute between the Player and the Club shall be referred to a Board composed of the Head Coach, the Team Captain, and the Chairman of the Players Committee, and the decision of a majority of the members of that Board shall be accepted as final and unappealable.

8. The Player promises and agrees that during the term of this contract he will not play football or engage in activities relating to football for any other person, team, club, firm, corporation or institution except with the prior written consent of the Club and the Unions and that he will not during the term of this contract engage in any game or exhibition of baseball, basketball, lacrosse, hockey, wrestling, boxing or any other sport which is likely to endanger his ability to perform his services hereunder without the prior written consent of the Club.

9. The Player represents and warrants that he is and will continue to be sufficiently high skilled in all types of football team play to play football of the calibre required by the Unions and by the Club, and that he is and will continue to be in excellent physical condition and agrees to perform his services hereunder to the complete satisfaction of the Club and its Head Coach. If, in the opinion of the Head Coach, the Player does not maintain himself in excellent physical condition, or fails at any time during the term of this contract to demonstrate sufficient skill and capacity to play football of the calibre required by the Unions or by the Club, or if, in the opinion of the Head Coach, the Player's work or conduct in the performance of this contract is unsatisfactory the Club shall have the right to terminate this contract forthwith upon written notice to the Player of such termination or impose such fines each of which shall be for a sum not less than Five Dollars (\$5.00) and not exceeding One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) which the Head Coach in his sole discretion deems advisable.

10. The Player hereby represents that he has special, exceptional and unique knowledge, skill and ability as a football player, the loss of which cannot be estimated with any certainty and cannot be fairly or adequately compensated for by damages, and therefore agrees that the Club or the Unions shall have the right in addition to any other rights which the Club may possess, to enjoin him by appropriate injunction proceedings against playing football or engaging in activities related to football for any person, team, club, firm, corporation or institution and against any other breach of this contract.

11. The Player acknowledges the right and power of the Unions and/or Club to fine and/or suspend definitely or indefinitely and/or to cancel the contract of any Player who accepts a bribe or who agrees to throw or fix a game or who having knowledge of the same fails to report an offered bribe or an attempt to throw or fix a game or who bets on a game or who is guilty of any conduct detrimental to the welfare of the Unions or of the Club or of football, and the Player hereby releases the Unions and every member of their executive individually and the Club and every officer, director and member thereof jointly and severally from all claims and demands for damages and every claim and demand whatsoever, including a claim for payment of any remaining scheduled, playoff or final games, arising out of or in connection with the decision of the Unions or of the Club or of the officials of either of them in any of the aforesaid cases.

12. On the execution of this agreement the Player hereby agrees to execute the standard Canadian Rugby Union form under which his services are offered to the Hamilton Tiger-Cat Football Club Inc. for the term of this contract.

13. This agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties and there are no oral or written inducements, promises or agreements except as contained herein. This agreement shall become valid and binding upon each party upon execution by both parties.

14. All the terms of this contract are subject to the Club being accepted as a member club by the Inter-Provincial Rugby Football Union and obtaining franchise representation as such for the term hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF this agreement has been executed in duplicate by the Player who has hereunto set his hand and seal and the Club which has caused its corporate seal to be affixed under the hands of its duly authorized officers on

the 31st day of August,

1950.

WITNESS:

*May*

*[Signature]*  
Player

Player's Address  
HAMILTON, TIGER-CAT FOOTBALL CLUB INC.  
*[Signature]*





# NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE STANDARD PLAYERS CONTRACT

## BETWEEN

...The Philadelphia Eagles, Inc. .... a corporation  
which operates ...The Philadelphia Eagles....., and which is a member of the National Football League, and which is hereinafter called the "Club," and ...Ralph Goldston..... of ...535 Foster St., Youngstown, Ohio..... hereinafter called the "Player."

In consideration of the respective promises herein the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. The term of this contract shall be from the date of execution hereof until the first day of May following the close of the football season commencing in .....1953....., subject however, to rights of prior termination as specified herein.

2. The Player agrees that during the term of this contract he will play football and will engage in activities related to football only for the Club and as directed by the Club according to the Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the National Football League, hereinafter called the "League," and of the Club, and the Club, subject to the provisions hereof, agrees during such period to employ the Player as a skilled football player. The Player agrees during the term of this contract to report promptly for the Club's training seasons to render his full time services during the training seasons and at the Club's direction to participate in all practise sessions and in all League and other football games scheduled by the Club.

3. For the Player's services as a skilled football player during the term of this contract, and for his agreement not to play football or engage in activities related to football for any other person, firm, corporation or institution during the term of this contract, and for the option hereinafter set forth giving the Club the right to renew this contract, and for the other undertakings of the Player herein, the Club promises to pay the Player each football season during the term of this contract the sum of \$4,525.00..... to be payable as follows:

75% of said salary in weekly installments commencing with the first and ending with the last regularly scheduled League game played by the Club during such season and the balance of 25% of said sum at the end of said last regularly scheduled League game.

In addition, the Club promises and agrees to pay the reasonable board and lodging expenses of the Player incurred while playing games for the Club in other than the Club's home city and also to pay all proper and necessary travelling expenses of the Player and his meals en route to and from said games.

4. The Player agrees at all times to comply with and to be bound by all the provisions of the Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the League and of the Club, all of which are hereby made a part of this contract. If the Player fails to comply with said Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations the Club shall have the right to terminate this contract or to take such other action as may be specified in said Constitution, By-laws, Rules and Regulations, or as may be directed by the Commissioner of the League, hereinafter called the "Commissioner." The Player agrees to submit himself to the discipline of the League and of the Club for any violation of such Constitution, By-laws, Rules and Regulations subject however, to the right to a hearing by the Commissioner. All matters in dispute between the Player and the Club shall be referred to the Commissioner and his decision shall be accepted as final, complete, conclusive, binding and unappealable, by the Player and by the Club. The Player hereby waives any and all rights of action against the Commissioner, the League, the Club or any of its members or stockholders, and against any officer of the Club or of the League arising out of or in connection with decisions of the Commissioner, except to the extent of awards made by the Commissioner to the Player. The Player hereby acknowledges that he has read said Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations and that he understands their meaning.

5. The Player promises and agrees that during the term of this contract he will not play football or engage in activities related to football for any other person, firm, corporation or institution except with the prior written consent of the Club and the Commissioner, and that he will not during the term of this contract engage in any game or exhibition of baseball, basketball, hockey, wrestling boxing or any other sport which endangers his ability to perform his services hereunder, without the prior written consent of the Club. The Player likewise promises and agrees that during the term of this contract, when, as and if he shall receive an invitation to participate in any All-Star football game which is approved by the League, he will play in said game in accordance with all the terms and conditions relating thereto, including the player compensation therein set forth, as are agreed to between the League and the Sponsor of such game.

6. The Player represents and warrants that he is and will continue to be sufficiently highly skilled in all types of football team play to play professional football of the caliber required by the League and by the Club, that he is and will continue to be in excellent physical condition, and agrees to perform his services hereunder to the complete satisfaction of the Club and its Head Coach. If in the opinion of the Head Coach the Player does not maintain himself in excellent physical condition or fails at any time during the football seasons included in





the term of this contract to demonstrate sufficient skill and capacity to play professional football of the caliber required by the League and by the Club, or if in the opinion of the Head Coach the Player's work or conduct in the performance of this contract is unsatisfactory as compared with the work and conduct of other members of the Club's squad of players, the Club shall have the right to terminate this contract upon written notice to the player of such termination.

7. Upon termination of this contract the Club shall pay the Player only the balance remaining due him for travelling and board and lodging expenses and any balance remaining due him for football seasons completed prior to termination, and, if termination takes place during a football season, any balance remaining due him on that portion of his total compensation for that season as provided in paragraph 3 hereof which the number of regularly scheduled League games already played by the Club during that season bears to the total number of League games scheduled for the Club for that season.

8. The Player hereby represents that he has special, exceptional and unique knowledge, skill and ability as a football player, the loss of which cannot be estimated with any certainty and cannot be fairly or adequately compensated by damages and therefore agrees that the Club shall have the right, in addition to any other rights which the Club may possess, to enjoin him by appropriate injunction proceedings against playing football or engaging in activities related to football for any person, firm, corporation or institution and against any other breach of this contract.

9. It is mutually agreed that the Club shall have the right to sell, exchange, assign and transfer this contract and the Player's services to any other Club of the League and the Player agrees to accept such assignment and to report promptly to the assignee club and faithfully to perform and carry out this contract with the assignee club as if it had been entered into by the Player with the assignee club instead of with this club.

10. On or before the date of expiration of this contract, the Club may, upon notice in writing to the Player, renew this contract for a further term until the first day of May following said expiration on the same terms as are provided by this contract, except that (1) the Club may fix the rate of compensation to be paid by the Club to the Player during said period of renewal, which compensation shall not be less than ninety percent (90%) of the amount paid by the Club to the Player during the preceding season, and (2) after such renewal this contract shall not include a further option to the Club to renew the contract; the phrase "rate of compensation" as above used shall not be understood to include bonus payments or payments of any nature whatsoever other than the precise sum set forth in Paragraph 3 hereof.

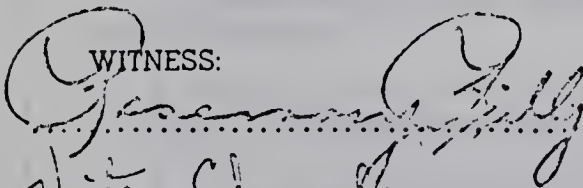
11. Player acknowledges the right and power of the Commissioner of the National Football League (a) to fine and suspend, (b) to fine and suspend for life or indefinitely, and/or (c) to cancel the contract of, any player who accepts a bribe or who agrees to throw or fix a game or who, having knowledge of the same, fails to report an offered bribe or an attempt to throw or fix a game, or who bets on a game, or who is guilty of any conduct detrimental to the welfare of the National Football League or of professional football; and the Player hereby releases the Commissioner of the National Football League, individually and in his official capacity, and also the National Football League and every club and every officer, director and stockholder of the League and of every club thereof, jointly, and severally, from all claims and demands for damages and every claim and demand whatsoever he may have arising out of or in connection with the decision of said Commissioner of the National Football League in any of the aforesaid cases.

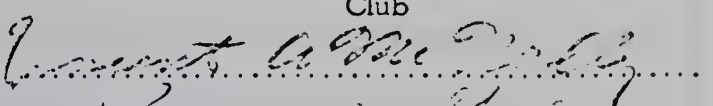
12. Any payments made hereunder to the Player for a period during which he is entitled to workman's compensation benefits by reason of temporary total, permanent total, temporary partial, or permanent partial disability shall be deemed an advance payment of compensation benefits due the player, and the club shall be entitled to be reimbursed the amounts thereof out of any award of compensation.

13. This agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties and there are no oral or written inducements, promises or agreements except as contained herein. This agreement shall become valid and binding upon each party hereto only when, as and if it shall be approved by the Commissioner.

14. This agreement has been made under and shall be governed by the laws of the State of .....  
..... Pennsylvania .....

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Player has hereunto set his hand and seal and the Club has caused this contract to be executed by its duly authorized officer on the date set opposite their respective names.

WITNESS:  
  
Victor Edwards  
Approved .....  
Commissioner

The Philadelphia Eagles, Inc.  
..... Club  
By  .....  
Date 5-6-53  
5-16-53 .....  
Date .....  
Player  
Date 5/21/53 .....  
Player's Address

This Copy to be sent to Commissioner for Approval  
Return to Player





14. If in the opinion of Head Coach Trimble Goldston has a good year in 1953, the Philadelphia Eagles will give him a bonus of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250.00). *E.P.H.*

*E.P.H.*  
The Philadelphia Eagles will also give Goldston a bonus of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) if The Philadelphia Eagles show a profit on the six away games during the 1953 season.

*Dinner - E.P.H.*

### CLUB RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. All players must be on time for all meetings, practice sessions, meals, and all types of transportation. The curfew must be observed. Players must keep all publicity appointments and be on time.
2. Drinking of intoxicants is forbidden.
3. Players must not enter drinking or gambling resorts nor associate with gamblers or other notorious characters.
4. Players must report all injuries to a coach and the club physician or trainer immediately, and be prompt in keeping appointments.
5. Players must wear coats and neckties in hotel lobbies, public eating places, and on all trains (if they are not occupying private pullmans and diners).
6. Players must familiarize themselves with Paragraph 11 of their contract.
7. Players shall not write or sponsor magazine or newspaper articles, or endorse any product without the consent of the club.





# PLAYERS CONTRACT

BETWEEN

HAMILTON TIGER-CAT FOOTBALL CLUB INC., a Company incorporated under the Laws of the Province of Ontario, having its Head Office at the City of Hamilton, in the said Province of Ontario, hereinafter called the Club,

AND

hereinafter called the Player,

RALPH GOLDSTON

OF THE FIRST PART,

OF THE SECOND PART.

WHEREAS the Club is a member of the Canadian Rugby Union and is operating a football team within the Association known as the Inter-Provincial Rugby Football Union, which two organizations are hereinafter referred to as the Unions.

AND WHEREAS the Player is desirous of playing football for the said Club which is desirous of having him do so on the terms and conditions hereinafter set out.

WITNESSETH that in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements hereinafter contained the parties hereto mutually agree as follows:

1. The term of this contract shall be from the date of execution hereof until the first day of July following the close of the football season of the year 1956, including the Club's training season and practice sessions, exhibition, league playoff games, Eastern Canada final games and Dominion final games, subject, however, to the rights of prior termination as specified herein.

2. The Player agrees that during the term of this contract he will play football and will engage in activities related to football only for the Club as directed by the Club according to the Constitution, By-laws, Rules and Regulations of the Unions and of the Club, and the Club, subject to the provisions hereof, agrees during such period to employ the Player as a skilled football player.

3. The Player agrees that during the term of this contract he will report promptly for the Club's training session, render his services during the training season and at the Club's direction will participate in all practice sessions and in all league and other football games scheduled by the Club, including all exhibition, league playoff games and final games.

4. For the Player's services as a skilled football player during the term of this contract and for his agreement not to play football or engage in activities relating to football for any other person, team, club, firm, corporation or institution during the term of this contract and for the other undertakings of the Player herein, the Club promises to pay the Player, subject to the terms hereinafter provided, the sum of ~~SEVENTHOUSAND FIVE HUNDRE~~ <sup>(\$7,500.00)</sup> for the football season of the above-mentioned year, the same to be payable for those games participated in by the Player for the Club during the term of this contract in amounts by which the above-mentioned sum is divisible by the number of scheduled League games of the Club for the said season, such payment to be made at a time mutually agreed upon between the parties hereto within one week following each such game. The Club shall pay the Player at the same rate per game for every play-off game in which he participates for the Club.

5. The Club shall be entitled to deduct from each payment made under the preceding paragraph any amount required by the Government of Canada for income tax.

6. The player agrees that he is not to receive any remuneration from the Club for his participation in any exhibition games.

7. Prior to the start of each football season, the player shall attend before the Club's Medical Committee for a complete physical and medical examination, and, if, in the opinion of the said Medical Committee, the player is not completely fit to participate in football activities, this agreement and everything herein contained, shall be, at the Club's option, void and of no force and effect.

8. The Player agrees at all times to comply with and be bound by all the provisions of the Constitution, By-laws, Rules and Regulations of the Unions and of the Club, all of which are hereby made a part of this contract. If the Player fails to comply with said Constitution, By-laws, Rules and Regulations of the Unions or of the Club, the Club shall have the right to terminate this contract or to take such other action as may be specified in the said Constitution, By-laws, Rules and Regulations. The Player agrees to submit himself to the discipline of the Unions and of the Club for any violation of such Constitution, By-laws, Rules and Regulations, subject, however, to any right to a hearing which may be provided for in the Constitution, By-laws, Rules and Regulations of the Unions or of the Club. All matters in dispute between the Player and the Club shall be referred to a Board composed of the Head Coach, the Club President, and the Chairman of the Players' Committee, and the decision of a majority of the members of that Board shall be accepted as final and unappealable.

9. The Player promises and agrees that during the term of this contract he will not play football or engage in activities relating to football for any other person, team, club, firm, corporation or institution except with the prior written consent of the Club and the Unions, and that he will not during the term of this contract engage in any game or exhibition of baseball, basketball, lacrosse, hockey, wrestling, boxing or any other sport which is likely to endanger his ability to perform his services hereunder without the prior written consent of the Club.

10. The Player agrees that should he at any time or times or in any manner, fail to comply with the covenants or agreements on his part herein contained, or any of them, or should the player at any time be intemperate, immoral, careless or indifferent, or conduct himself in such manner, whether on or off the field, as in the opinion of the Head Coach, endangers or prejudices the interests of the Club, then the Club shall have the right to terminate this contract forthwith upon either written notice to the player given to him at the address indicated below, or verbal notice given to him by the Head Coach of such termination, in which event such player shall have no right to any further remuneration hereunder or to any other benefits under this contract; or, in the alternative, the Club at its option may impose such fines on the player as the Club deems fit and proper and in the case of a fine being imposed, the player agrees to pay such fine immediately thereafter or the Club may withhold an equivalent amount from any salary due or to become due to the player in payment thereof.

11. The Player agrees to promptly pay any fine levied on him by the I.R.F.U. Executive, and failing such prompt payment the Club is authorized to pay same and deduct such amount from any salary due or to become due to the player.

12. The Player represents and warrants that he is and will continue to be sufficiently highly skilled in all types of football team play to play football of the calibre required by the Unions and by the Club and that he is and will continue to be in excellent physical condition and agrees to perform his services hereunder to the complete satisfaction of the Club and its Head Coach. If in the opinion of the Head Coach, the Player does not demonstrate sufficient skill and capacity to play football of the calibre required by the Unions or by the Club, whether by reason of any injury sustained by the Player either before or during the term of this contract or for any other reason whatsoever, the Club shall have the right to terminate this contract forthwith upon either written notice to the Player or verbal notice given to him by the Head Coach of such termination, in which event such Player shall have no right to any further remuneration hereunder or to any other benefits under this contract. If, in the opinion of the Head Coach, the Player does not maintain himself in excellent physical condition or if the Player's work or conduct in the performance of this contract is unsatisfactory, the Club shall have the right to terminate this contract forthwith upon either written notice or verbal notice given to the Player by the Head Coach of such termination or the Club may impose such fines as it sees fit.

13. The Player hereby represents that he has special exceptional and unique knowledge, skill and ability as a football player, the loss of which cannot be estimated with any certainty and cannot be fairly or adequately compensated for by damages, and therefore agrees that the Club or the Unions shall have the right in addition to any other rights which the Club may possess, to enjoin him by appropriate injunction proceedings against playing football or engaging in activities related to football for any person, team, club, firm, corporation or institution and against any other breach of this contract.

14. The Player acknowledges the right and power of the Unions and/or Club to fine and/or suspend definitely or indefinitely and/or to cancel the contract of any Player who accepts a bribe or who agrees to throw or fix a game or who having knowledge of the same fails to report an offered bribe or an attempt to throw or fix a game or who bets on a game or who is guilty of any conduct detrimental to the welfare of the Unions or of the Club or of football, and the Player hereby releases the Union and every member of their executive individually and the Club and every officer, director and member thereof jointly and severally from all claims and demands for damages and every claim and demand whatsoever, including a claim for payment of any remaining scheduled, playoff or final games, arising out of or in connection with the decision of the Unions or of the Club or of the officials of either of them in any of the aforesaid cases.

15. On or before the date of expiration of this contract, which shall be the first day of July following the close of the football season of the year stipulated in paragraph Number 1 above, the Club may, upon notice in writing to the Player, addressed to him at the Player's address indicated at the foot of this contract, renew this contract for a further term of one year following the aforesaid date of expiration, on the same terms including rate of compensation to the player, as set out in paragraph Number 4 herein as are provided by this contract, except that after such renewal this contract shall not include a further option to the Club to renew the contract.

16. On the execution of this agreement the Player hereby agrees to execute the standard Canadian Rugby Union form under which his services are offered to the Hamilton Tiger-Cat Football Club Inc.

17. The Player agrees that he will not make any guest appearances on any programme, including radio and television, or at any function, nor will he write articles pertaining to football or assist in the coaching of any football team other than the Club without the written consent of the Club first obtained.

18. The parties agree that the Club shall have the exclusive right to permit any person, firm or corporation to display for publicity purposes, pictures of the Player without the Player receiving remuneration therefor, and the Player shall not allow, either gratuitously or for remuneration, any pictures of the player to be used for any publicity purposes without the consent in writing of the Club first had and obtained.

19. All the terms of this contract are subject to the Club being accepted as a member Club by the Inter-Provincial Rugby Football Union and obtaining franchise representation as such for the term hereof.

20. The terms and provisions of this contract are to be construed in accordance with the Laws of the Province of Ontario.

21. This agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties, and there are no oral or written inducements, promises or agreements except as contained herein.

22. This agreement shall be dated as of the date of its approval and execution on behalf of the Club as provided hereunder and shall not be effective or binding upon the Club until so approved and executed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF this agreement has been executed in duplicate by the Player who has hereunto set his hand and seal and the Club which has caused its corporate seal to be affixed under the hands of its duly authorized Officers on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1956.

*Wm. B. Duff*

Witness to Player's Signature

*Ralph Goldston*  
Player

*James H. Trumble*  
Player's Address

HAMILTON TIGER-CAT FOOTBALL CLUB INC.

*James H. Trumble*  
Head Coach

Approved on Behalf of the Club





# CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE STANDARD PLAYER'S CONTRACT

BETWEEN

Hamilton Tiger-Cat Football Club, Inc. a member of the Western Inter-provincial Rugby Football Union (hereinafter referred to as the "Union"), and of the Canadian Football League, hereinafter called the "Club."

- AND -

Frank Cosentino of the City of Hamilton  
in the Province of Ontario  
hereinafter called the "Player"

In consideration of the mutual and respective covenants and agreements hereinafter contained, the parties hereto hereby agree as follows:

1. The term of this contract shall be from the date of execution hereof until the 1st day of June following the close of the football season commencing in 1960, subject however to rights of prior termination as specified herein.
2. The player agrees that during the term of this contract he will play football and will engage in activities related to football only for the Club and will play for the Club in all its Union's scheduled and play-off games, and Canadian Football League play-off games and any exhibition games for which the Club may arrange; and the Club, subject to the provisions hereof, agrees during such period to employ the player as a skilled football player. The player agrees during the term of this contract to report promptly for the Club's training seasons and at the Club's directions to participate in all practice sessions.
3. For the player's services as a skilled football player during the term of this contract, and for his agreement not to play football, or engage in activities relating to football, for any other person, firm, Club or corporation during the term of this contract, and for the option hereinafter set forth giving the Club the right to renew this contract and for the other undertakings of the player

herein, the Club promises to pay the player the sum of \$3,500.00

for his participation as a player in all the scheduled league games of the Club for the said season in amounts by which the above-mentioned sum is divisible by the number of such games or, should the player not participate as such in all such league games then in the same amount per game for those in which he does so participate.

4. The Club shall be entitled to deduct from each and every payment made under any of the provisions of this agreement, any amount required for income taxes.

5. The Club agrees to pay the proper and necessary travelling and reasonable board and lodging expenses whenever the player is travelling in the services of the Club for games in other than the Club's home city, but when not so travelling, the player shall pay his own expenses.

6. Prior to the start of each football season, the player shall attend before the Club's medical committee for a complete physical and medical examination, and, if, in the opinion of the said medical committee, the player is not completely fit to participate in football activities, this agreement and everything herein contained, shall be, at the Club's option, void and of no force and effect.

7. The player agrees to comply with all the rules and regulations now, or which may hereafter be, adopted during the duration of this contract, by the Canadian Football League and/or the Union and/or the Club.

8. The player agrees that should he at any time or times or in any manner, fail to comply with the covenants or agreements on his part herein contained, or any of them, or should the player at any time be intemperate, immoral, careless or indifferent, or conduct himself in such manner, whether on or off the field, as in the opinion of the Club, endangers or prejudices the interests of the Club, or fails to attain when requested first class physical condition, or fails to maintain first class physical condition throughout the football season, then the Club shall have the right to discipline, suspend, or fine the player in such manner as the Club shall deem fit and proper and in case of a fine being imposed by the Club, the player agrees to pay such fine or the Club may withhold an equivalent amount from any salary due or to become due to the player in payment thereof.

9. The player agrees to promptly pay any fine levied on him by the Union or any of its properly authorized officers or its or the Canadian Football League's Commissioner, and failing such prompt payment the Club is authorized to pay same and deduct such amount from any salary due or to become due to the player.

10. The player represents that he is and will continue to be highly skilled in all types of football team play to play football of the calibre required by the Union and by the Club, and agrees to perform his services hereunder to the complete satisfaction of the Club and its Head Coach. If, in the opinion of the Head Coach, the player fails at any time during the term of this contract to demonstrate sufficient skill and capacity to play football of the calibre required by the Union or by the Club, or if, in the opinion of the Head Coach, the player's work or conduct in the performance of this contract is unsatisfactory, or, where there exists a limit to the number permitted of a certain class of player, and in the opinion of the Head Coach, the player, being within that class, should not be included amongst the permitted number, the Club shall have the right to terminate this contract upon notice to the player. It is agreed by both parties that the Club's Head Coach shall be the sole judge as to the competency and satisfaction of the player and his services.





11. Upon termination of this contract during the football season, the player shall only be entitled to receive and the Club shall only be required to pay to the player as compensation for services theretofore rendered hereunder, such portion of the total compensation for the regular season as provided in paragraph 3 hereof.

12. The player promises and agrees that during the term of this contract he will not play football or engage in activities related to football in Canada or in the United States of America for any other person, firm, Club or corporation except with the prior written consent of the Club, and that he will not, during the term of this contract engage in any game or exhibition of baseball, basketball, hockey, wrestling, boxing, or any other sport which endangers his ability to perform his services hereunder without the prior written consent of the Club.

13. The player hereby represents that he has special, exceptional and unique knowledge, skill and ability as a football player, the loss of which cannot be estimated with any certainty and cannot be fairly or adequately compensated by damages, and therefore agrees that the Club shall have the right, in addition to any other rights which the Club may possess, to enjoin him by appropriate injunction proceedings against playing football or engaging in activities relating to football in Canada or the United States of America, for any person, firm, Club or corporation, and against any other breach of this contract.

14. It is mutually agreed that the Club shall have the right to sell, exchange, assign and transfer this contract and the player's services to any other Club of the Union or to any other Club in a Union affiliated with the Canadian Football League, and the player agrees to accept such assignment and to report promptly to the assignee Club and faithfully to perform and carry out this contract with the assignee Club as if it had been entered into by the player with the assignee Club instead of with this Club.

15. On or before the date of expiration of this contract, the Club may, upon notice in writing to the player addressed to

84 MacAuley St., Hamilton, Ont.

renew this contract for a further term until the 1st day of June following said expiration, on the same terms as are provided by this contract, except that (1) the Club may fix the rate of compensation to be paid by the Club to the player during said period of renewal, which compensation shall not be less than ninety percent (90%) of the amount set forth in paragraph 3 hereof, and (2) after such renewal this contract shall not include a further option to renew the contract; the phrase "Rate of Compensation" as above used shall not be understood to include bonus payments or payments of any nature whatsoever other than the precise sum set forth in paragraph 3 hereof.

16. It is mutually understood and agreed that if the operation of the Union is suspended, this contract shall immediately be terminated and the remuneration to be paid to the player shall be on the basis as provided by paragraph 11 herein.

17. The player acknowledges the right and power of the Club and/or of the Union and/or of the Union's or the Canadian Football League's Commissioner to fine, suspend for any period, and/or cancel the contract of any player who accepts a bribe or who agrees to throw or fix a game, or who, having knowledge of the same, fails to report an offered bribe or an attempt to throw or fix a game, or who bets on a game, or who is guilty of any conduct detrimental to the welfare of the Union; and the player hereby releases the said Union and its or the Canadian Football League's Commissioner and the Club, and every officer, director and member of the Union, The Canadian Football League and the said Club, jointly, and severally, from all claims and demands for damages, and every claim and demand whatsoever he may have arising out of or in connection with the decision of the Union or its or the Canadian Football League's Commissioner or the Club in any of the aforesaid cases.

18. The player agrees that he will not make any guest appearances on any program, including radio and/or television, or at any function, nor will he write articles pertaining to football or assist in the coaching of any football team other than the Club without the written consent of the Club first obtained.

19. The parties agree that the Club shall have the exclusive right to permit any person, firm or corporation to display, for publicity purposes, pictures of the player without the player receiving remuneration therefor, and the player shall not allow, either gratuitously or for remuneration, any pictures of the player to be used for any publicity purposes without the consent in writing of the Club first had and obtained.

20. If the player is injured as a result of playing football for the Club, the Club will pay the player's reasonable hospitalization until discharge from the hospital, and his medical expenses and doctor's bills, provided that the hospital and doctor are selected by the Club, and provided further that the Club's obligation to pay such expenses shall terminate at a period not more than eight weeks after the injury, and the player releases the Club from any and every additional obligation, liability, claim or demand whatsoever in connection therewith.

21. The player represents to the Club that he is not under contract or option to play football for any other Club in Canada or the United States of America during the term of this contract, and that he has no contractual obligations which would prevent him from entering into the within contract.

22. This agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties and there are no oral or written inducements, promises or agreements except as contained herein, or endorsed on the back hereof and signed by both the Club and the player.

23. This agreement has been made under and shall be governed by the laws of the Province of Ontario

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the player has hereunto set his hand and seal and the Club has caused this contract to be executed by its duly authorized officer or officers this 1st day of March A.D. 1956

SIGNED, SEALED and DELIVERED  
in the presence of:

*[Signature]*  
Witness to Player's Signature

Approved on Behalf of the Club

*[Signature]*  
Player  
84 MacAuley St., Hamilton, Ontario  
Player's Address  
Hamilton Tiger-Cat Football Club, Inc.  
*[Signature]*

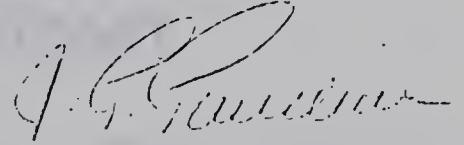
PLAYER'S COPY





In addition, the player shall receive \$300.00 for each I.R.F.U. league playoff game in which the Club participates as long as he is still a playing member of the Club.

Should the Club participate in the Grey Cup playoff game, the player will receive the amount of \$500.00 game salary as long as he is still a playing member of the Club.



Should the player become a member of the Armed Forces of either Canada or the United States of America prior to the expiration of this contract, or any portion contained therein, and subsequently be released from the Armed Forces, then, the time elapsed between the player's induction into the Armed Forces and his discharge therefrom shall be considered as tolled, and the term of this contract shall be considered as extended for a period beginning with the player's release from the Armed Forces and ending after a period of time equal to the portion of the term of this contract which was unexpired at the time the player entered the Armed Forces, and the option contained therein shall be considered as continuously in effect from the date of this contract until the end of such extended term.

Witness to Player's Signature

Player



CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE  
STANDARD PLAYER'S CONTRACT  
BETWEEN

WINNIPEG BLUEBONNETS FOOTBALL CLUB .....a member of the Western Football Conference  
(hereinafter referred to as the "Conference"), and of the Canadian Football League, Eastern Football Conference  
hereinafter called the "Club."

— A N D —

ERIC COLEMAN .....of the CITY .....of EDMONTON  
in the PROVINCE .....of ALBERTA.  
hereinafter called the "Player"

In consideration of the mutual and respective covenants and agreements hereinafter contained, the parties hereto hereby agree as follows:

1. The term of this contract shall be from the date of execution hereof until the 1st day of June following the close of the football season commencing in 196....., subject however to rights of prior termination as specified herein.

2. The player agrees that during the term of this contract he will play football and will engage in activities related to football only for the Club and will play for the Club in all its Conference's scheduled and play-off games, and Canadian Football League play-off games and any exhibition games for which the Club may arrange; and the Club, subject to the provisions hereof, agrees during such period to employ the player as a skilled football player. The player agrees during the term of this contract to report promptly for the Club's training sessions and at the Club's directions to participate in all practice sessions.

3. For the player's services as a skilled football player during the term of this contract, and for his agreement not to play football, or engage in activities relating to football, for any other person, firm, Club or corporation during the term of this contract and for the option hereinafter set forth giving the Club the right to renew this contract and for the other undertakings of the player herein, the Club promises to pay the player the sum of \$.....~~Five thousand (\$5,000.00)~~....., to be payable as follows: 75 % of said salary in weekly instalments commencing with the first and ending with the last regularly scheduled Conference game played by the Club during such season, and the balance of 25 % of said sum at the end of the last scheduled Conference game, unless the Club shall, after its last scheduled Conference game have any Conference, or Canadian Football League playoff games to engage in, in which event the remaining 25 % shall be paid at the end of the last such play-off games.

*21. The Player will receive the additional sum of \$1,000.00 if, as a quarterback, he is the leading NFL passer by percentage, having passed at least 100 times. F.C.*

*22. The Player will receive an additional \$1,000.00, if as a quarterback, he is instrumental in the team scoring in excess of 70 points during the regular 1963 season. F.C.*

4. The Club shall be entitled to deduct from each and every payment made under any of the provisions of this agreement, any amount required for the player's income taxes.

5. The Club agrees to pay the proper and necessary travelling and reasonable board and lodging expenses whenever the player is travelling in the services of the Club for games in other than the Club's home city, but when not so travelling, the player shall pay his own expenses.

6. Prior to the start of each football season, the player shall attend before the Club's medical committee for a complete physical and medical examination, and, if, in the opinion of the said medical committee, the player is not completely fit to participate in football activities, this agreement and everything herein contained, at the Club's option, shall be void and of no force and effect.





7. The player agrees to comply with all the rules and regulations now, or which may hereafter be, adopted during the duration of this contract, by the Canadian Football League and/or the Conference and/or the Club.
8. The player agrees that should he at any time or times, or in any manner, fail to comply with the covenants or agreements on his part herein contained, or any of them, or should the player at any time be intemperate, immoral, careless or indifferent, or conduct himself in such manner, whether on or off the field, as in the opinion of the Club, endangers or prejudices the interests of the Club, or fails to attain when requested, first class physical condition, or fails to maintain first class physical condition throughout the football season, then the Club shall have the right to discipline, fine, suspend for any period or indefinitely, or cancel the contract in such manner as the Club shall deem fit and proper, and in case of a fine being imposed by the Club, the player agrees to pay such fine or the Club may withhold an equivalent amount from any salary due or to become due in payment thereof.
9. The player agrees to promptly pay any fine levied on him by the Conference or any of its properly authorized officers or its or the Canadian Football League's Commissioner, and failing such prompt payment the Club is authorized to pay same and deduct such amount from any salary due or to become due to the player.
10. The player represents that he is and will continue to be highly skilled in all types of football team play to play football of the calibre required by the Conference and by the Club, and agrees to perform his services hereunder to the complete satisfaction of the Club and its Head Coach. If, in the opinion of the Head Coach, the player fails at any time during the term of this contract to demonstrate sufficient skill and capacity to play football of the calibre required by the Conference or by the Club, or if, in the opinion of the Head Coach, the player's work or conduct in the performance of this contract is unsatisfactory, or, where there exists a limit to the number permitted of a certain class of player, and in the opinion of the Head Coach, the player, being within that class, should not be included amongst the permitted number, the Club shall have the right to terminate this contract upon notice to the player. It is agreed by both parties that the Club's Head Coach shall be the sole judge as to the competency and satisfaction of the player and his services.
11. Upon termination of this contract during the football season, the player shall only be entitled to receive and the Club shall only be required to pay to the player as compensation for services theretofore rendered hereunder, such portion of the total compensation for the regular season as provided in paragraph 3 hereof, as the number of the regular scheduled Conference games already played bears to the total number of Conference games scheduled for the Club for that season, and upon such termination the Club shall pay to the player the balance of such compensation as then remains owing to the player.
12. The player promises and agrees that during the term of this contract he will not play football or engage in activities related to football in Canada or in the United States of America for any other person, firm, Club or corporation except with the prior written consent of the Club, and that he will not, during the term of this contract engage in any game or exhibition of baseball, basketball, hockey, wrestling, boxing, or any other sport which endangers his ability to perform his services hereunder without the prior written consent of the Club.
13. The player hereby represents that he has special, exceptional and unique knowledge, skill and ability as a football player, the loss of which cannot be estimated with any certainty and cannot be fairly or adequately compensated by damages, and therefore agrees that the Club shall have the right, in addition to any other rights which the Club may possess, to enjoin him by appropriate injunction proceedings against playing football or engaging in activities relating to football in Canada or the United States of America, for any person, firm, Club or corporation, and against any other breach of this contract.
14. It is mutually agreed that the Club shall have the right to sell, exchange, assign and transfer this contract and the player's services to any Club of the Conference or to any Club in a Conference affiliated with the Canadian Football League, and the player agrees to accept such assignment and to report promptly to the assignee Club and faithfully to perform and carry out this contract with the assignee Club as if it had been entered into by the player with the assignee Club instead of with this Club, and the player agrees that the assignee Club shall pay to the Club any amount owing by the player at the time of such sale, exchange, assignment or transfer and shall be permitted to deduct such amount from salary due or to become due to the player.
15. On or before the date of expiration of this contract the Club may, upon notice in writing to the player addressed to 11-16 - 175 Avenue, Montreal, Quebec., renew this contract for a further term until the 1st day of June following said expiration, on the same terms as are provided by this contract, except that (1) the Club may fix the rate of compensation to be paid by the Club to the player during said period of renewal, which compensation shall not be less than ninety percent (90%) of the amount set forth in paragraph 3 hereof, and (2) after such renewal this contract shall not include a further option to renew the contract; the phrase "Rate of Compensation" as above used shall not be understood to include bonus payments or payments of any nature whatsoever other than the precise sum set forth in paragraph 3 hereof.





16. It is mutually understood and agreed that if the operation of the Conference is suspended, this contract shall immediately be terminated and the remuneration to be paid to the player shall be on the basis as provided by paragraph 11 herein.

17. The player acknowledges the right and power of the Club and/or of the Conference and/or of the Conference's or the Canadian Football League's Commissioner to fine, suspend for any period or indefinitely, and/or cancel the contract of any player who accepts a bribe or who agrees to throw or fix a game, or who, having knowledge of the same, fails to report an offered bribe or an attempt to throw or fix a game, or who bets on a game, or who is guilty of any conduct detrimental to the welfare of the Conference, or the Canadian Football League, or of professional football; and the player hereby releases the said Conference and its or the Canadian Football League's Commissioner and the Club, and every officer, director and member of the Conference, the Canadian Football League and the said Club, jointly, and severally whatsoever he may have arising out of or in connection with the decision of the Conference or its or the Canadian Football League's Commissioner or the Club in any of the aforesaid cases.

18. The player agrees that he will not make any appearances on any program, including radio and/or television, or at any function, nor will he write articles pertaining to football or assist in the coaching of any football team other than the Club without the written consent of the Club first obtained.

19. The parties agree that the Club shall have the exclusive right to permit any person, firm or corporation to display, for publicity or commercial purposes, pictures of the player without the player receiving remuneration therefor, and the player shall not allow either gratuitously or for remuneration, any pictures of the player to be used for any publicity purposes without the consent in writing of the Club first had and obtained.

20. If the player is injured as a result of playing football for the Club, the Club will pay the player's reasonable hospitalization until discharge from the hospital, and his medical expenses and doctor's bills, provided that the hospital and doctor are selected by the Club, and provided further that the Club's obligation to pay such expenses shall terminate at a period not more than eight weeks after the injury, and the player releases the Club from any and every additional obligation, liability, claim or demand whatsoever in connection therewith.

21. It is further agreed that if the player is injured in the performance of his duties hereunder during or subsequent to the Club's first scheduled Conference game, and the injury or injuries are such as to render him, in the sole judgment of the Club's physician, unfit to play skilled football during the football season or any part thereof, the Club shall pay to the player, so long as in the sole opinion of the Club's physician the player continues to be unable to resume his duties hereunder, 100 % of the salary to which the player would be entitled to pursuant to paragraph 3 hereof, if he had played in the scheduled Conference games; it being understood and agreed that this obligation shall not extend beyond the current playing season and does not include bonuses for playoff games.

22. The player represents to the Club that he is not under contract or option to play football for any other Club in Canada or the United States of America during the term of this contract, and that he has no contractual obligations which would prevent him from entering into the within contract.

23. Should the player become a member of the Armed Forces of either Canada or the United States of America or retire from football prior to the expiration of this contract, or any option contained herein, and subsequently be released from the Armed Forces or return to professional football, then and in either event the time elapsed between the player's induction into the Armed Forces and his discharge therefrom, or between his retiring from professional football and his return thereto, shall be considered as tolled, and the term of this contract shall be considered as extended for a period beginning with the player's release from the Armed Forces or his return to professional football, as the case may be, and ending after a period of time equal to the portion of the term of this contract which was unexpired at the time the player entered the Armed Forces or retired from professional football; and the option contained herein shall be considered as continuously in effect from the date of this contract until the end of such extended term.

24. This agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties and there are no oral or written inducements, promises or agreements except as contained herein.



25. This agreement has been made under and shall be governed by the laws of the Province of.....  
.....ALBERTA.....

26. In addition to the salary to be paid to the Player under Clause Three (3) of this contract, the Club agrees to pay the Player the following with respect to the play-off games.

- Four Hundred Dollars if the Club plays in the W.F.C. Semi-Finals -- \$400.00
- PLUS Eight Hundred Dollars if the Club plays in the W.F.C. Finals -- \$800.00
- PLUS Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars if the Club plays in the Dominion Final (Grey Cup Game) -- \$750.00
- PLUS Five Hundred Dollars if the Club wins the Dominion Final (Grey Cup Game) -- \$500.00

27. The Player agrees to make such appearances at public or private gatherings or on radio or television programs, in the interest of the promotion of football, as the Club may request from time to time.

28. The Player is to receive an additional \$500.00 if he receives a Schenley Award for the Outstanding Canadian in the Canadian Football League or \$1,000.00 if he is selected as the Outstanding Player in the Canadian Football League by Schenley.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the player has hereunto set his hand and seal and the Club has caused this contract to be executed by its duly authorized officer or officers this 6th day of March A.D. 1968.

SIGNED, SEALED and DELIVERED  
in the presence of:

.....EDMONTON BRUIERS FOOTBALL CLUB.....  
Club  
By.....  
.....J. M. Casentino.....  
Player  
11407 - 37th Avenue, EDMONTON, Alberta.  
Player's Address

.....Sheila Casentino.....  
Witness to Player's Signature











## ILLUSTRATIONS AND THEIR SOURCES

FIGURE	SOURCE
1.	R.H. Hubbard, <u>Rideau Hall</u> , Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1967, p. 116.
2.	<u>Ibid.</u> , p. 118.
3.	Nat Turofsky, <u>The Sports Seen</u> , Toronto: The Ryerson Press, 1960, p. 33.
4.	Football Hall of Fame.
5.	<u>Ibid.</u>
6.	<u>Ibid.</u>
7.	Gordon Currie, <u>100 Years of Canadian Football</u> , Toronto: Pagurian Press, 1968, p. 67.
8.	<u>Ibid.</u> , p. 67.
9.	<u>Ibid.</u> , p. 68.
10.	Football Hall of Fame.
11.	<u>Ibid.</u>
12.	<u>Ibid.</u>
13.	Moe Lieberman, Edmonton.
15.	<u>Ibid.</u>
16.	<u>Ibid.</u>
17.	<u>Ibid.</u>
18.	Ron McAllister, <u>Football Stars . . . Today and Yesterday</u> , Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1950, p. XIII.
19.	Frank Leadley, Kingston.
20.	Football Hall of Fame.
21.	<u>Ibid.</u>
22.	McAllister, <u>op. cit.</u> , p. XXV.
23.	<u>Ibid.</u> , p. XXVIII.



## FIGURE

24. Ibid., p. XXVII.
25. Ibid., p. XIV.
26. Ibid., p. XVI.
27. Ibid., p. XX.
28. Football Hall of Fame.
29. Currie, op. cit., p. 138.
30. McAllister, op. cit., p. XXVI.
31. Football Hall of Fame.
32. Ibid.
33. McAllister, op. cit., p. XXI.
34. Ibid., p. XXIV.
35. Ibid., p. XVII.
36. Ibid., p. XIX.
37. Ibid., p. XVIII.
38. Ibid., p. XXII.
39. Turofsky, op. cit., p. 38.
40. Edmonton Journal.
41. Football Hall of Fame.
42. Henry, op. cit.
43. Edmonton Journal.
44. Ibid.
45. Ibid.
46. Ibid.
47. Ibid.
48. Ibid.
49. Ibid.





## FIGURE

50. Ibid.
51. Ibid.
52. Ibid.
53. Ibid.
54. Ottawa Citizen.
55. Edmonton Journal.
56. Ibid.
57. Hamilton Tiger-Cats Football Club Ltd.
58. Edmonton Journal.
59. Currie, op. cit., p. 140.
60. Hamilton Tiger-Cats Football Club Ltd.
61. Currie, op. cit., p. 141.
62. Ibid., p. 140.
63. Hamilton Tiger-Cats Football Club Ltd.
64. Turofsky, op. cit., p. 39.
65. Edmonton Journal.
66. Ottawa Rough Riders Football Club Limited.
67. Football Hall of Fame.
68. Ibid.
69. Robert Riger, The Pros, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1960, p. 111.
70. Edmonton Journal.
71. Ibid.
72. Ibid.
73. Football Hall of Fame.
74. Author's File.





## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED

ABBREVIATION	TITLE
A.A.U. of C.	Amateur Athletic Union of Canada
A.A.U. of the U.S.	Amateur Athletic Union of the United States
A.B.C.	American Broadcasting Company
A.F.L.	American Football League
C.A.A.U.	Canadian Amateur Athletic Union
C.A.F.A.	Canadian Amateur Football Association
C.B.C.	Canadian Broadcasting Corporation
C.F.L.	Canadian Football League
C.I.A.U.	Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union
C.I.R.F.U.	Canadian Intercollegiate Rugby Football Union
C.R.U. (C.R.F.U.)	Canadian Rugby Union.
C.T.V.	Canadian Television Network
E.F.C.	Eastern Football Conference
H.A.A.A.	Hamilton Amateur Athletic Association
I.R.F.U.	Interprovincial Rugby Football Union
M.A.A.A.	Montreal Amateur Athletic Association
N.F.L.	National Football League
O.R.F.U.	Ontario Rugby Football Union
P.C.C.	Parkdale Canoe Club
Q.R.F.U.	Quebec Rugby Football Union
T.A.A.C.	Toronto Amateur Athletic Club
T.R. & A.A.	Toronto Rugby and Athletic Association
W.C.R.U.	Western Canada Rugby Union
W.F.C.	Western Football Conference
W.I.F.U.	Western Interprovincial Football Union







**B29905**